



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

**INTEGRATED HOUSEHOLD SURVEY
2016-2017**

**HOUSEHOLD SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS
REPORT**

NOVEMBER 2017

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I am full of gratitude to release the findings of the fourth Integrated Household Survey (IHS4) conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) over a period of April 2016 to April 2017. The survey is a multi-topic data collection instrument that is conducted once in every five years. The main objective of the survey is to provide timely and reliable information on welfare and socio-economic indicators. It also provides data needs for the review of the country's development strategies which have been implemented for the last five years.

Of particular importance of the IHS4 has been the updating of the MGDS I to MGDS II that run from 2011 to 2016. The survey also provides researchers with dataset that would allow further analysis to inform policy making process. The survey further highlights an understanding of the living conditions of the population, while at the same time serving the needs of planning and monitoring progress towards attainment of development goals at country and at the international level, the Sustainable Development Goals. Among other crucial indicators, the information includes poverty and income equality, demographic characteristics, health, education, labour force participation, credit and loan, household enterprises, consumption and asset ownership, agriculture, housing infrastructure and asset ownership, food security and mortality indicators.

Special thanks should go to the National Statistical Office, particularly the Commissioner of Statistics and her team, for their dedication towards production of the IHS4 report.

Finally, I would also like to thank the Government of Malawi, World Bank and Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) for their financial and technical support over the implementation of the fourth Integrated Household Survey.

Hon Goodall Gondwe

MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



This is the fifth report of a series of the integrated household Surveys conducted by the National Statistical Office. Through the Integrated Household Survey Program, the NSO conducts Integrated Household every five years. The first such survey was conducted in 1990 and was referred to as the Household Expenditure and Small Scale Economic Activities (HESSEA). This was followed by the 1997/98 Integrated Household Survey which is commonly referred to as IHS1. The second was conducted in 2004/05 and is referred to as IHS2. The third was conducted in 2010/11 and is referred to as IHS3. The current survey was conducted over the period April 2016 to April 2017 and is being referred to as IHS4.

The main objective of the Integrated Household Surveys is to provide and update information on various aspects of welfare and socio-economic status of the population of Malawi and are presented at various levels such as national; urban-rural; region and districts as well as disaggregated by sex.

The Integrated Household Survey is a detailed survey that collects information on consumption patterns of households both in terms of food and non-food over a one year period. This enables further analysis of the survey results to produce poverty profile of the country which feeds into the programming and evaluation of the country's medium development framework, the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS). Specifically the survey collected information on poverty and income equality, demographic characteristics, health, education, labour force participation, credit and loan, household enterprises, agriculture, housing infrastructure and asset ownership, food security and mortality indicators.

I also recognize the important role that members of staff from the National Statistical Office played in making this survey a success particularly, Jameson Ndawala (Deputy Commissioner of Statistics), Lizzie Chikoti (Assistant Commissioner of Statistics, Economics); Bright Mvula; Lameck Million; Imran Chiosa; Twikaleghe Mwalwanda; Sautso Wachepa; Glory Mshali; Dama Kaipa, Charles Chakanza; Charles Mbewe; Steve Pakundikana and Henderson Chilenje. Many thanks are also due to survey members who were involved in various stages of data collection and processing.

Finally, I would like to thank the Government of Malawi, the World Bank, Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) and respondents for supporting the implementation of the fourth Integrated Household Survey.

Mercy Kanyuka

COMMISSIONER OF STATISTICS

Abbreviations

CAPI	Computer Assisted Personal Interviews
CHAM	Christian Hospital Association of Malawi
CPI	Consumer Price Index
EA	Enumeration Area
GER	Gross Enrolment Rate
GPS	Geographical Positioning System
HESSEA	Household Expenditure and Small Scale Economic Activities
ISA	Integrated Surveys on Agriculture
IHS1	First Integrated Household Survey, 1998
IHS2	Second Integrated Household Survey, 2005
IHS3	Third Integrated Household Survey, 2011
IHS4	Fourth Integrated Household Survey, 2016
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Surveys
LSMS-ISA	Living Standards Measurement Surveys – Integrated Surveys on Agriculture
MCA	Millennium Challenge Account
MFEPD	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development
MGDS	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
NER	Net Enrolment Rate
NSO	National Statistical Office
PSU	Primary Sampling Unit
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
WB	World Bank

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background

The Integrated Household Survey (IHS) is one of the primary instruments implemented by the Government of Malawi through the National Statistical Office (NSO; www.nsomalawi.mw) roughly every 5 years to monitor and evaluate the changing conditions of Malawian households. The IHS data have, among other insights, provided benchmark poverty and vulnerability indicators to foster evidence-based policy formulation and monitor the progress of meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the goals listed as part of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS), and now the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The First Integrated Household Survey (IHS1) was implemented with technical assistance from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the World Bank (WB). The IHS1 was conducted in Malawi from November 1997 through October 1998 and provided for a broad set of applications on policy issues regarding households' behavior and welfare, distribution of income, employment, health and education. The Second Integrated Household Survey (IHS2; <http://go.worldbank.org/JABABM36V0>) was implemented with technical assistance from the World Bank to compare the current situation with the situation in 1997-98, and to collect more detailed information on a number of topics. The IHS2 was fielded from March 2004 through February 2005.

The Third Integrated Household Survey (IHS3) expanded on the agricultural content of the IHS2 and was implemented from March 2010 to March 2011 under the umbrella of the World Bank Living Standards Measurement Study - Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS-ISA) initiative, whose primary objective is to provide financial and technical support to governments in sub-Saharan Africa in the design and implementation of nationally-representative multi-topic panel household surveys with a strong focus on agriculture.

The Fourth Integrated Household Survey (IHS4) is the fourth full survey in this series and was fielded from April 2016 to April 2017 also under the World Bank LSMS-ISA umbrella. The IHS4 is a nationally representative sample survey designed to provide information on the various aspects of household welfare in Malawi. The survey collected information from a sample of 12,480 households statistically designed to be representative at both national, district, urban and rural levels enabling the provision of reliable estimates for these levels. Starting with the IHS4 the upcoming IHS rounds will be fielded every 3, as opposed to 5, years as in line with the NSO vision of collecting poverty data on a more frequent basis.

1.1: Objectives of the survey

The data from the IHS, among other insights, provides benchmark poverty, vulnerability, and socio-economic indicators to foster evidence-based policy formulation and monitor the progress of meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the goals listed as part of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS). The data from the IHS4 will be used to update the poverty profile for Malawi (poverty incidence, poverty gap, severity of poverty) and, as outlined in this report, gives an understanding of the people of Malawi's living conditions. It allows for the estimation of total household expenditure; household consumption patterns with the aim of updating the weights in the Malawi Consumer Price Index (CPI); and detailed agricultural activities. The data on household consumption and production will be used for National Accounts purposes and will support the goal to continue to provide up-to-date socio-economic indicators to enhance evidence-based policy formulation. The frequency of the data collection effort is in conformity with the envisioned policy of conducting such surveys roughly every 3 years at the national level as well as the international level as the global development focus turns to the improved monitoring of the SDGs.

1.2: Sampling Design

A stratified two-stage sample design was used for the IHS4. The primary sampling units (PSUs) selected at the first sampling stage were the census enumerations areas (EAs) defined for the 2008 Malawi Census. The EA is the smallest operational area established for the census with well-defined boundaries, corresponding to the workload of one census enumerator. The EAs have an average of about 235 households each. Malawi is divided into 32 districts, which were the geographic domains of estimation for the IHS2 and IHS3¹. The distribution of the EAs

¹The island district of Likoma had been excluded from the IHS3 sampling frame, since it only represents about 0.1% of the population of Malawi, and the corresponding cost of enumeration would be relatively high. However, for the IHS-4 it was decided to include Likoma in the sampling frame. Because of the small size of Likoma, for

and households by district, urban and rural areas from the 2008 Malawi Census is presented in Table 1.1, which includes Likoma separately for reference purposes although in the sampling frame the EAs of Likoma were combined with those of Nkhata Bay.

Table 1.1 Distribution of Sample EAs and Households for IHS4 by District

District	Projected Population	Sampled	
	2016[1]	EAs	Households
Malawi	16,141,307	779	12,480
Chitipa	222,769	24	384
Karonga	348,110	24	384
Nkhata Bay	277,861	24	384
Rumphi	222,769	24	384
Mzimba	222,769	24	384
Likoma	10,464	11	192
Mzuzu City	239,008	24	384
Kasungu	858,782	24	384
Nkhotakota	391,575	24	384
Ntchisi	295,592	24	384
Dowa	797,426	24	384
Salima	432,069	24	384
Lilongwe - Rural	1,490,641	36	576
Mchinji	610,781	24	384
Dedza	752,520	24	384
Ntcheu	588,038	24	384
Lilongwe City	1,098,167	36	576
Mangochi	1,053,585	24	384
Machinga	627,399	24	384
Zomba- Rural	408,019	24	384
Chiradzulu	673,178	24	384
Blantyre - Rural	322,646	24	384
Mwanza	105,743	24	384
Thyolo	655,118	24	384
Mulanje	579,818	24	384
Phalombe	383,273	24	384
Chikwawa	549,706	24	384
Nsanje	288,581	24	384
Balaka	409,420	24	384
Neno	158,123	24	384
Zomba City	147,131	24	384
Blantyre City	920,226	24	384

stratification purposes it was combined with the district of Nkhata Bay. Although it will be represented in the national-level survey results, Likoma will not be considered a domain of analysis for the IHS-4.

[\[21\] Source: NSO 2008 Population and Housing Census Population Projection Report](#)

1.3 Questionnaires

There were four types of questionnaires used during the IHS4. The Household Questionnaire is a multi-topic survey instrument and is near-identical to the content and organization of the IHS3. It encompasses economic activities, demographics, welfare and other sectoral information of households. It covers a wide range of topics, dealing with the dynamics of poverty (consumption, cash and non-cash income, savings, assets, food security, health and education, vulnerability and social protection). Although the IHS4 household questionnaire covers a wide variety of topics in detail, it intentionally excludes in-depth information on topics covered in other surveys that are part of the NSO's statistical plan (such as maternal and child health issues covered at length in the Malawi Demographic and Health Survey).

The second type was an agricultural questionnaire. All IHS4 households that are identified as being involved in agricultural or livestock activities were administered the agriculture questionnaire, which is primarily modelled after the IHS3 counterpart. The agriculture questionnaire allows, among other things, for extensive agricultural productivity analysis through the diligent estimation of land areas, owned and cultivated, labour and non-labour input use and expenditures, and production figures for main crops, and livestock. Although one of the major foci of the agriculture data collection effort was to produce smallholder production estimates for major crops, it is also possible to disaggregate the data by gender and main geographical regions.

The third type was a fisheries questionnaire. This questionnaire was also developed to cover in detail fish farming for those households engaged in fish farming.

The fourth type of questionnaire was the community questionnaire which was administered to a group of representatives at the community level. A community was defined as the village or urban location surrounding the enumeration area selected for inclusion in the sample and which most residents recognize as being their community. The IHS4 community questionnaire was administered in each of the sample EAs and, identical to the IHS3 approach, to a group of several knowledgeable residents such as the village headman, the headmaster of the local school, the agricultural field assistant, religious leaders, local merchants, health workers and long-term knowledgeable residents. The instrument gathers information on a range of community characteristics, including religious and ethnic background, physical infrastructure, access to public services, economic activities, communal resource management, organization

and governance, investment projects, and local retail price information for essential goods and services.

1.4 Organization of the survey

1.4.1 Training

Training of enumerators was conducted from 22nd February 2016 through 25th of March 2016. The training took place at The Village @ Mandevu in Machinga, Malawi. A total of one hundred and ten people were trained. Out of these, eighteen were earmarked for team leaders and ninety two were earmarked for data collection. Out of the ninety two enumerators, twenty were to be kept on reserve to replace those who would leave in the process of the fieldwork.

1.4.2 Fieldwork

There were eighteen mobile teams each covering approximately two districts.³ Each team had a team leader, four enumerators, and a driver. Fieldwork commenced on the 15th of April 2016 although there was slight variation in the actual commencement dates due to traveling by teams.

1.5 Data processing

To ensure data quality and timely availability of data, IHS4 was implemented using the World Bank's *Survey Solutions* CAPI software⁴. To carry out IHS4, 1 laptop computer and a wireless router were assigned to each team supervisor, and each enumerator had an 8-inch GPS-enabled Samsung S2 tablet computer. Headquarters (NSO management) assigned work to supervisors based on their regions of coverage. Supervisors then made assignments to the enumerators linked to their Supervisor account. The work assignments and syncing of completed interviews took place through a Wi-Fi connection to the IHS4 server. Because the data was available in real time it was monitored closely throughout the entire data collection period and upon receipt of the data at headquarters, data was exported to STATA for other consistency checks, data cleaning, and analysis.

³ The eighteenth team served as the tracking team for the panel subcomponent portion of the exercise.

⁴For background and documentation on *Survey Solutions*, please visit www.worldbank.org/capi. The software platform is available free of charge and is being developed by the World Bank Development Data Group - Survey and Methods Unit (DECSM). To access *Survey Solutions* Designer, please visit and sign up as a user at www.solutions.worldbank.org where the IHS4 CAPI questionnaires are publicly available.

1.6 Sample results

The total sample size for the IHS4 was 12,480 households sampled from a total of 779 EAs⁵. At the end of the survey, a total of 12,447 households were interviewed representing a response rate of 99.7 percent⁶. However, it is important to note that the survey allowed replacement of households. Of the 12,447 interviewed households, 557 were replacements (4.5 percent) for the reasons indicated in table 1.2 below:

Table 1.2 Reasons for household replacement from the original sample

	Households	%
Dwelling found but no household member could be found	313	56.2
Dwelling found but appears unoccupied	86	15.4
Dwelling not found	83	14.9
Dwelling destroyed	19	3.4
Dwelling found but respondent refused	30	5.4
Dwelling found but not a residential building	26	4.7
Total households	557	100.0

1.7 Organization of this report

This report has a total of twelve chapters.

Chapter one provides background information to the survey including how it fits into the survey programs of the NSO, survey support, design, survey implementation, and data analysis.

Chapter two provides characteristics of the population of Malawi. The chapter zeros in on the demographic characteristics of the population of Malawi and includes issues such as household size, migration, and orphanhood.

Chapter three provides education characteristics of the population of Malawi. The chapter provides information that would help assess the quality of education in Malawi such as net enrollment rates and gross enrollment rates. It also provides insights on literacy and the type of schools Malawian students attend.

⁵Likoma District contains 11 EAs, so to ensure an equal distribution across the 4 quarters of fieldwork the largest EA on the island was divided into two and visited for the first time during the 1st quarter and again during the 3rd.

⁶ 33 interviews were lost due to technical difficulties with the data collection platform.

Chapter four provides information on the health of the people of Malawi. The chapter looks at types of diseases reported to have affected household members and the use of health services. The chapter also examines the costs incurred by households in acquiring health services.

Chapter five focuses on access to credit and loans. Of interest are those in the household who borrowed from someone outside the household or from an institution for business or farming purposes in a form of either cash or inputs.

Chapter six examines characteristics of household enterprises as reported by the head of household. The chapter looks at households that have a member who has been operating any non-agricultural income-generating enterprise which produces goods or services. It also looks at whether anyone in the household owned a shop or operated a trading business over the past twelve months from the date of interview. Finally, the chapter summarises time used for both income generating and domestic activities.

Chapter seven examines housing conditions and assets owned by the population of Malawi. The chapter looks at the basis at which the occupants are occupying their dwelling. It also reports the main materials used for the walls, roofs and floors of dwelling structures along with the environmental conditions of the households such as access to an improved water source; type of rubbish disposal, sources of fuel for cooking and lighting etc. On assets, the chapter looks at two main categories of durable goods and appliances; and agricultural tools and equipment that households own.

Chapter eight focuses on the proportion of households involved in different agricultural activities, type of crops cultivated, and the use of labour and non-labour inputs. The analysis also looks at land area owned and cultivated along with acquisition status.

Chapter nine looks at welfare aspects of the households including self-reported wellbeing relative to some previous specified period regarding food consumption, housing, healthcare, clothing and scoring. The chapter also discusses social safety nets that household members have received. Social safety nets are deliberative actions that bail vulnerable households out of poverty. The duration a household has been receiving assistance and the last time a household received any assistance have also been discussed in this chapter. The chapter also provides information on the nutritional status of children. The chapter also reports on the participation rates of children in nutritional programs as well as under-five clinics.

The tenth chapter is on food security. The chapter analyzes perceived food situation of households and whether there were limitations on the amount of food household members consumed over the past seven days to the day of interviews. There is also a closer look at the trend in the months households experience food shortages.

The eleventh chapter provides information on the deaths of the people of Malawi. The chapter looks at types of diseases reported to have caused death among household members, type of diagnosis received for household members that fell sick and the population that lost property due to death of these household members.

Chapter 2

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents demographic characteristics of the population. A household may be either a person living alone or a group of people, either related or unrelated, who live together as a single unit in the sense that they have common housekeeping arrangements (that is, share or are supported by a common budget). A household head is the person who makes economic decisions in the household. The demographic characteristics examined include age, sex, household size, dependency ratio, orphanage and migration.

2.1 Age and sex distribution

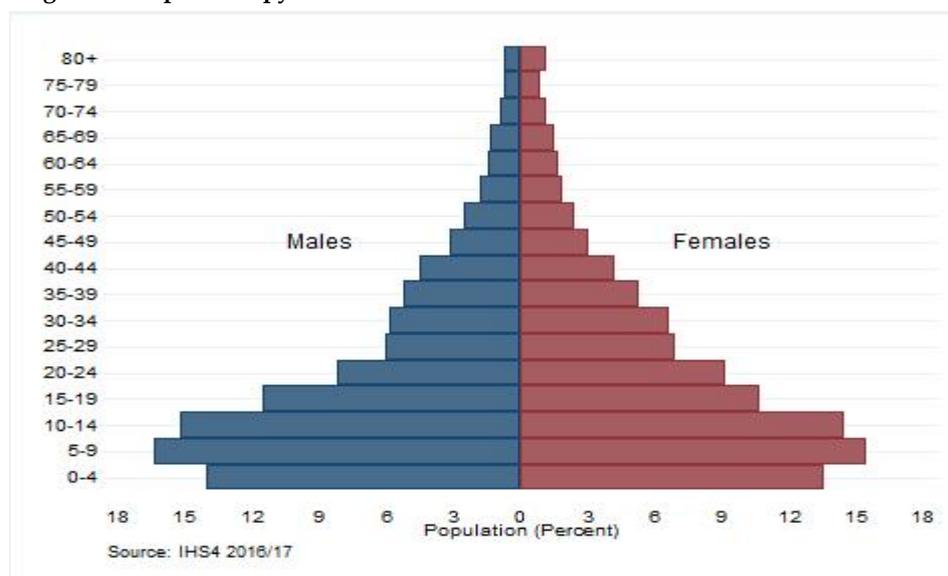
The age and sex distribution of the population is shown in Table 2.1. The table shows that 48 percent were males and 52 percent were females. The population for urban areas was at 19 percent while that of rural areas was at 81 percent.

Table 2.1 Percentage distribution of population by five-year age groups according to sex and residence, Malawi 2016/17

Age group	Sex		Place of Residence		
	Male	Female	Urban	Rural	Total
Malawi	48.0	52.0	19.0	81.0	100.0
0-4	14.2	13.6	12.5	14.2	13.9
5-9	16.5	15.5	13.7	16.5	16.0
10-14	15.5	14.3	13.7	15.1	14.9
15-19	11.4	10.7	11.0	11.0	11.0
20-24	8.1	9.1	10.0	8.3	8.6
25-29	5.9	6.9	9.1	5.8	6.4
30-34	5.7	6.9	8.3	5.9	6.3
35-39	5.3	5.2	6.3	5.0	5.2
40-44	4.5	4.3	5.1	4.2	4.4
45-49	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.2
50-54	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.5
55-59	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8
60-64	1.4	1.7	1.1	1.7	1.6
65-69	1.4	1.6	0.9	1.7	1.5
70-74	1.0	1.1	0.7	1.1	1.0
75-79	0.7	0.9	0.3	0.9	0.8
80+	0.8	1.1	0.5	1.1	1.0

Figure 2.1 displays the population pyramid showing population structure for Malawi by sex and age groups and it reveals that Malawi has a larger population in the younger age groups. For example, almost 56 percent of the population is less than 20 years old.

Figure 2.1 Population pyramid for Malawi



2.2 Household size

Table 2.2 indicates the average household size and percentage distribution of households by household size. The average household size for Malawi was 4.3 persons per household. The average household size for rural and urban areas were similar.

Across regions, the household size for Southern Region was lower than other regions (4.2 persons). Female-headed households had a lower average household size (3.7 persons) than male-headed households (4.5 persons).

It can also be observed that household heads in the age group of up to 24 and 65+ had the lowest household size (2.9 persons and 3.3 persons respectively) compared to the other age groups. Households whose heads have either primary or no education had higher household size compared to the households whose heads have secondary or tertiary education.

Table 2.2 also shows the average household size for Nkhata Bay (5.4 persons) and Nkhotakota (5.0 persons) were higher than other districts like Chiradzulu, Blantyre and Thyolo had the lowest average household size (3.9 persons each).

The table also shows the distribution of households by the number of members. At national level, 37 percent of the households had 4-5 members and 7 percent had 1 member in the household. In rural areas, 37 percent of the households had less than or equal to 3 members compared to 36 percent in urban areas.

Almost 26 percent of male-headed households had 2-3 members compared to 40 percent of female-headed households. In terms of age of the household head, 69 percent of households whose heads were 24 years or less had 2-3 members compared to households whose heads were 35-49 years (14 percent). Nearly 52 percent of households whose heads were 25-34 years old had 4-5 members compared to households whose heads were aged 24 years or less (19 percent).

Table 2.2 Mean household size and percentage distribution of households by household size by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Household size, IHS4	Number of members				
		1 Person	2-3 Persons	4-5 Persons	6 or more Persons	Total
Malawi	4.3	6.9	30.3	37.0	25.8	100.0
Place of residence						
Urban	4.3	8.5	27.7	38.0	25.8	100.0
Rural	4.3	6.5	30.9	36.8	25.8	100.0
Region						
North	4.5	8.1	26.8	35.8	29.3	100.0
Center	4.4	6.1	28.8	36.8	28.3	100.0
South	4.2	7.3	32.5	37.5	22.7	100.0
Sex of household head						
Male	4.5	5.6	26.3	38.2	29.9	100.0
Female	3.7	9.8	40.2	34.2	15.8	100.0
Age of household head						
Up to 24	2.9	10	68.9	18.8	2.2	100.0
25-34	4.0	5.3	29.5	51.8	13.4	100.0
35-49	5.2	3.5	14.0	37.9	44.6	100.0
50-64	4.6	7.3	27.6	33.8	31.3	100.0
65+	3.3	7.3	27.6	33.8	31.3	100.0
Education level of household head						
None	4.3	6.2	30.0	37.0	26.8	100.0
Primary	4.0	10.2	30.6	38.8	20.4	100.0
Secondary	3.9	11.7	33.4	36.0	18.9	100.0
Tertiary	3.8	13.0	35.1	37.3	14.6	100.0
Marital Status of household head						
Never married	1.9	54.7	26.9	33.5	12.2	100.0
Married	4.7	0.9	26.9	40.8	31.4	100.0
Divorced/Separated	3.5	16.9	35.2	33.5	14.4	100.0
Widowed/Widower	3.3	17.3	43.2	27.3	12.2	100.0
District						
Chitipa	4.1	9	33.1	34.6	23.3	100.0
Karonga	4.3	8.9	27.4	39.4	24.4	100.0
Nkhata Bay	5.4	5.7	19.1	32.1	43.1	100.0
Rumphi	4.5	6.5	26.5	35.7	31.3	100.0
Mzimba	4.3	8	30.3	33.9	27.8	100.0
Likoma	4.8	6.2	18.3	46.0	29.5	100.0

Table 2.2 continued

District	Household size, IHS4	1 Person	2-3 Persons	4-5 Persons	6 or more Persons	Total
Mzuzu City	4.5	9.9	24.0	36.8	29.2	100.0
Kasungu	4.7	5	27.4	33.4	34.2	100.0
Nkhota kota	5.0	3.7	21.5	35.8	39.0	100.0
Ntchisi	4.4	7.5	28.8	35.7	28.0	100.0
Dowa	4.3	4.8	32	35.1	28.2	100.0
Salima	4.1	7.8	32.3	37.4	22.6	100.0
Lilongwe	4.3	5.4	29.7	39.6	25.3	100.0
Mchinji	4.4	4.4	30.3	37.5	27.7	100.0
Dedza	4.3	6.8	31.0	37.0	25.2	100.0
Ntcheu	4.2	9.2	30	37.6	23.1	100.0
Lilongwe City	4.6	7.5	23.5	36.4	32.6	100.0
Mangochi	4.1	6.4	35.4	38.1	20.1	100.0
Machinga	4.5	3.8	28.7	37.5	30.0	100.0
Zomba	4.4	7.0	30.7	33.2	29.0	100.0
Chiradzulu	3.9	6.5	40.3	35.9	17.4	100.0
Blantyre	3.9	7.1	38.5	37.1	17.2	100.0
Mwanza	4.3	5.0	32.2	37.3	25.4	100.0
Thyolo	3.9	10.9	35.4	36.3	17.4	100.0
Mulanje	4.4	5.1	27.1	40.8	27.0	100.0
Phalombe	4.4	5.0	29.2	39.0	26.9	100.0
Chikwawa	4.3	9.4	29.6	32.4	28.6	100.0
Nsanje	4.3	9.8	29.6	32.6	28.1	100.0
Balaka	4.2	8.4	29.5	40.3	21.7	100.0
Neno	4.4	8.2	28.0	37.0	26.8	100.0
Zomba City	4.3	7.3	30.3	36.2	26.1	100.0
Blantyre City	4.0	8.3	31.3	41.5	18.9	100.0

2.3 Households by sex of household head

Table 2.3 displays the distribution of households by sex of the household head according to background characteristics. At national level, there were less female-headed households constituting 25 percent of all households. In urban areas, 81 percent of the households were headed by males and 20 percent were headed by females. Across rural areas, 73 percent of the households were headed by males and 27 percent were headed by females. Furthermore, in the Southern Region, 30 percent of the households were headed by females while in Northern and Central regions, these were at 21 and 23 percent respectively.

Across household head age groups, 28 percent of the households were headed by females who were aged 24 years or less and 22 percent of the households were headed by females who were 35-49 years old. For households whose heads were widows/widowers, 92 percent were headed by females. Lilongwe city had the highest proportion of households headed by males (88 percent) and Mangochi district had the highest proportion of households headed by females (41 percent).

Table 2.3 Percentage distribution of households by age and sex of household head according to background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Sex of household head		
	Male	Female	Total
Malawi	74.8	25.2	100.0
Place of residence			
Urban	80.5	19.5	100.0
Rural	73.4	26.6	100.0
Region			
North	77.5	22.5	100.0
Central	79.3	20.7	100.0
South	69.6	30.4	100.0
Age of household head			
Up to 24	71.6	28.4	100.0
25-34	76.4	23.6	100.0
35-49	78.2	21.8	100.0
50-64	73.3	26.7	100.0
65+	73.3	26.7	100.0
Education level of household head			
None	74.7	25.3	100.0
Primary	78.1	21.9	100.0
Secondary	73.5	26.5	100.0
Tertiary	78.4	21.6	100.0
Marital status of household head			
Never married	59.2	7.1	100.0
Married	92.9	7.1	100.0
Divorced/Separated	9.5	90.5	100.0
Widowed/Widower	8.1	91.9	100.0
District			
Chitipa	78.8	21.2	100.0
Karonga	81.6	18.4	100.0
Nkhata Bay	69.8	30.2	100.0
Rumphi	78.0	22.0	100.0
Mzimba	77.9	22.1	100.0
Likoma	70.9	29.1	100.0
Mzuzu City	78.7	21.3	100.0
Kasungu	79.9	20.1	100.0
Nkhota kota	75.4	24.6	100.0
Ntchisi	81.9	18.1	100.0
Dowa	84.1	15.9	100.0
Salima	76.0	24.0	100.0
Lilongwe	79.1	20.9	100.0
Mchinji	74.1	25.9	100.0
Dedza	74.9	25.1	100.0
Ntcheu	71.3	28.7	100.0
Lilongwe City	87.7	12.3	100.0
Mangochi	59.1	40.9	100.0
Machinga	69.6	30.4	100.0
Zomba	74.2	25.8	100.0
Chiradzulu	64.1	35.9	100.0
Blantyre	67.0	33.0	100.0
Mwanza	77.0	23.0	100.0
Thyolo	68.6	31.4	100.0
Mulanje	64.9	35.1	100.0
Phalombe	70.8	29.2	100.0
Chikwawa	79.3	20.7	100.0
Nsanje	72.9	27.1	100.0

Table 2.3 continued

Background characteristics	Male	Female	Total
Balaka	69.2	30.8	100.0
Neno	77.5	22.5	100.0
Zomba City	80.1	19.9	100.0
Blantyre City	77.4	22.6	100.0

2.4 Dependency ratio

The dependency ratio relates the number of children (0-14 years old) and older persons (65 years or over) to the working-age population (15-64 years old). It indicates the potential effects of changes in population age structures for social and economic development, pointing out broad trends in social support needs.

Table 2.4 shows the dependency ratio during the IHS4. The ratio for Malawi was at 1.2 implying that there were 0.2 more economically inactive persons for every economically active person.

The dependency ratio was high in the rural areas at 1.3 compared to urban areas at 0.9. Across regions, the ratio was higher in Southern Region (1.3) as compared to Central Region (1.2) and Northern Region (1.1).

Female-headed households had a higher dependency ratio (1.6) than male-headed households (1.1). The dependency ratio decreased with education level of the household head. Households whose heads had no education had a dependency ratio of 1.3 which was higher than households whose heads had primary education (1.1), secondary education (0.9) and tertiary education (0.7). Across districts, Machinga had the highest dependency ratio (1.6) followed by Mangochi (1.5) and Salima (1.4). Blantyre city and Mzuzu had the lowest dependency ratios (0.8).

Table 2.4 Dependency ratio by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

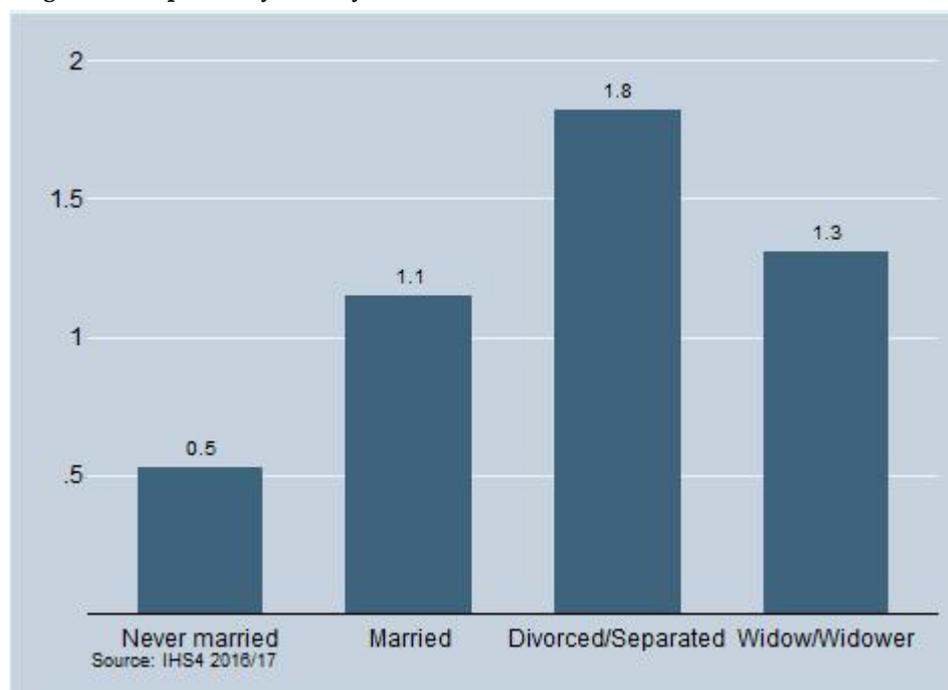
Background characteristics	IHS4
Malawi	1.2
Place of residence	
Urban	0.9
Rural	1.3
Region	
North	1.1
Central	1.2
South	1.3
Gender of household head	
Male	1.1
Female	1.6
Age of household head	
Up to 24	0.8
25-34	1.4

Table 2.4 continued

Background characteristics	IHS 4
35-49	1.2
50-64	0.8
65+	1.8
Education level of household head	
None	1.3
Primary	1.1
Secondary	0.9
Tertiary	0.7
Marital status of household head	
Never married	0.5
Married	1.1
Divorced/Separated	1.8
Widow/Widower	1.3
District	
Chitipa	1.2
Karonga	1.1
Nkhata Bay	1.2
Rumphi	1.1
Mzimba	1.3
Likoma	1.0
Mzuzu City	0.8
Kasungu	1.4
Nkhota kota	1.3
Ntchisi	1.2
Dowa	1.3
Salima	1.4
Lilongwe	1.2
Mchinji	1.3
Dedza	1.3
Ntcheu	1.2
Lilongwe City	1.0
Mangochi	1.5
Machinga	1.6
Zomba	1.3
Chiradzulu	1.2
Blantyre	1.1
Mwanza	1.2
Thyolo	1.3
Mulanje	1.2
Phalombe	1.3
Chikwawa	1.3
Nsanje	1.3
Balaka	1.3
Neno	1.3
Zomba City	1.0
Blantyre City	0.8

Figure 2.2 portrays the distribution of dependency ratios in terms of marital status of the household head. In households whose heads were divorced/separated, the dependency ratio was 1.8 which was higher than in households whose heads were never married (0.5), married (1.1) and widowed (1.3).

Figure 2.2 Dependency ratio by marital status of household head



2.5 Orphanhood

In the IHS4, an “orphan” was defined as a person aged less than 18 years who had lost at least one of the parents. Table 2.5 shows the proportion of children aged 18 years and below who lost one or both parents. The table indicates that 10 percent of the children less than 18 years lost one or both parents. It also shows that 63 percent lost their father, 22 percent lost their mother while 14 percent lost both parents.

With respect to place of residence, both urban and rural areas registered about 10 percent of orphans of which 63 percent lost their father and 15 percent lost both parents.

In terms of sex of the household head, the proportion of orphans was higher in female-headed households (22 percent). The proportion of orphans who lost both parents was higher among male-headed households (20 percent). For households whose heads had primary education, 8 percent of children were orphans of which 28 percent had lost both parents.

A relationship was also observed between age and orphanhood. In general, the proportion of orphans was higher among older children than in younger children.

Across districts, Mulanje had the highest proportion of orphans (17 percent) compared to other districts and Balaka had the lowest proportion (6 percent). Among orphans, both the highest proportion of those who lost only a father (84 percent) and the lowest proportion who lost only

a mother (9 percent) were found in Dedza. On the other hand, the highest proportion of those who lost only a mother was reported in Thyolo (43 percent).

Table 2.5 Proportion of orphans and percentage distributions of orphans who are aged 18 years and less by type of orphanage according to background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Proportion of orphans	Type of orphan			
		Father died	Mother died	Both parents died	Total
Malawi	10.1	63.1	22.4	14.5	100.0
Place of residence					
Urban	10.4	62.5	22.7	14.7	100.0
Rural	10.0	63.3	22.3	14.5	100.0
Region					
North	9.2	67.5	16.8	15.7	100.0
Central	8.6	64.5	22.2	13.3	100.0
South	11.8	61.4	23.4	15.2	100.0
Sex of the household head					
Male	5.7	44.5	35.8	19.7	100.0
Female	21.5	76.2	12.9	10.9	100.0
Age of household head					
Up to 24	9.5	48.5	22.1	29.4	100.0
25-34	6.0	70	17.9	12.1	100.0
35-49	8.6	76.8	16.1	7.1	100.0
50-64	14.3	58.9	28.1	13.0	100.0
65+	24.3	58.9	28.1	13.0	100.0
Education level of household head					
None	10.1	62.9	22.7	14.3	100.0
Primary	8.4	66.2	6.2	27.6	100.0
Secondary	11.5	63.5	26.9	9.5	100.0
Tertiary	9.7	67.4	15.9	16.7	100.0
Marital status of household head					
Never married	17.4	39.5	29.3	20.1	100.0
Married	5.3	50.9	29.3	19.8	100.0
Divorced/Separated	8.9	60.6	19.2	20.1	100.0
Widow/Widower	51.5	74.8	17.0	8.2	100.0
Gender of the orphan					
Male	10.1	62.5	22.8	14.8	100.0
Female	10.0	63.8	22.0	14.3	100.0
Age groups of orphan					
0-4	2.5	77.0	19.1	3.9	100.0
5-9	7.6	62.4	25.1	12.5	100.0
10-15	15.3	61.7	22.5	15.8	100.0
16-17	22.2	63	19.8	17.2	100.0
District					
Chitipa	7.6	66.6	28.1	5.3	100.0
Karonga	7.6	64.1	12.4	23.5	100.0
Nkhata Bay	15.2	66.8	16.7	16.5	100.0
Rumphi	7.8	75.1	13.0	11.8	100.0
Mzimba	7.7	61	22.3	16.7	100.0
Likoma	9.7	59.1	14.2	26.7	100.0
Mzuzu City	8.0	74.3	10.6	15.1	100.0
Kasungu	8.1	58.1	29.9	12.0	100.0
Nkhota kota	8.2	75.2	18.2	6.6	100.0
Ntchisi	7.6	71.1	26.2	2.7	100.0
Dowa	6.3	54.1	34.8	11.2	100.0
Salima	10.1	58.5	23.6	17.9	100.0

Table 2.5 continued

Background characteristics	Proportion of orphans	Father died	Mother died	Both parents died	Total
		76.2	9.1	14.7	100.0
		51.1	26.4	22.5	100.0
Dedza	10.9	83.5	8.6	7.9	100.0
Ntcheu	11.1	56.1	26.8	17.1	100.0
Lilongwe City	8.2	55.2	32.3	12.5	100.0
Mangochi	10.8	62.2	16.0	21.7	100.0
Machinga	8.6	68.0	23.0	9.0	100.0
Zomba	10.5	57.0	33.5	9.6	100.0
Chiradzulu	13.9	61.3	26.6	12.1	100.0
Blantyre	11.5	64.3	23.7	12.0	100.0
Mwanza	8.2	74.5	12.0	13.5	100.0
Thyolo	10.1	43.6	43.3	13.1	100.0
Mulanje	16.5	56.3	21.9	21.8	100.0
Phalombe	13.4	61.8	25.4	12.8	100.0
Chikwawa	15.8	67.7	20.5	11.8	100.0
Nsanje	15.5	69.6	12.3	18.1	100.0
Balaka	6.0	58.1	23.4	18.5	100.0
Neno	6.2	73.7	11.6	14.7	100.0
Zomba City	12.4	64.3	25.3	10.4	100.0
Blantyre City	12.4	63.4	20.8	15.8	100.0

2.5 Migration

Migration is the geographic movement of people across a specified boundary to establish a new residence. The terms "immigration" and "emigration" are used to refer to movements between countries, that is, international migration. Corresponding terms to immigration and emigration for movement between areas within a country, that is internal migration are; in-migration and out-migration respectively. In the IHS4, household members were asked to state whether they had always lived in their current location or they had moved from elsewhere. They specified where they moved from, the time since they moved and reasons for their action. For this analysis, we have restricted migration to include only movements within the last 5 years. The geographical units used in this survey are rural and urban, districts and abroad (outside Malawi).

Table 2.6 shows that 10 percent of the population moved from one area to another in the last 5 years. In urban areas, 20 percent were migrants while in rural areas 7 percent were migrants.

In male-headed households, 10 percent were migrants and in female-headed households, 7 percent were migrants. There were more migrants in households whose heads were aged between 15 and 24 years or 25 and 34 years compared to other age brackets.

Across education level of household head, it was observed that the higher the education level of the head, the higher the proportion of migrants. In terms of marital status of the head,

households whose heads were never married had a higher proportion of migrants (28 percent) compared to households whose heads were widowed (6 percent).

Mzuzu city had the highest proportion of migrants (28 percent) while Zomba rural had the lowest proportion of migrants (3 percent).

Table 2.6 Proportion of migrants according to background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Proportion of migrants, IHS4
Malawi	9.5
Place of residence	
Urban	20.2
Rural	7.0
Region	
North	15.2
Central	9.6
South	8.2
Sex of the household head	
Male	10.4
Female	7.0
Age of household head	
Up to 24	17.4
25-34	14
35-49	8.4
50-64	6.1
65+	4.4
Education level of household head	
None	8.3
Primary	14.7
Secondary	20.8
Tertiary	25.4
Marital status of household head	
Never married	28.1
Married	10.2
Divorced/Separated	6.1
Widow/Widower	5.7
District	
Chitipa	11.6
Karonga	16.2
Nkhata Bay	8.6
Rumphi	8.8
Mzimba	18.8
Likoma	8.6
Mzuzu City	27.8
Kasungu	10.6
Nkhota kota	17.7
Ntchisi	12.5
Dowa	7.8
Salima	7.3
Lilongwe	6.4
Mchinji	5.8
Dedza	4.7
Ntcheu	3.9
Lilongwe City	20.4

Table 2.6 continued

Background characteristics	Proportion of migrants, IHS4
Zomba	2.8
Chiradzulu	7.8
Blantyre	9.9
Mwanza	4.3
Thyolo	7.6
Mulanje	11.1
Phalombe	8.3
Chikwawa	4.3
Nsanje	6.6
Balaka	4.7
Neno	3.7
Zomba City	14.0
Blantyre City	20.6

Figure 2.3 shows the reasons for migrating by sex of the migrant. For male migrants, the majority migrated because the parents/family moved (44 percent) while the minority migrated due to schooling (2). Almost 9 percent of the male migrants moved to start a business/work. For female migrants, the majority migrated for marriage (48 percent) while the minority migrated to attend school (1 percent). At least 37 percent of the female migrants moved due to family reasons.

Figure 2.3 Reasons for migrating

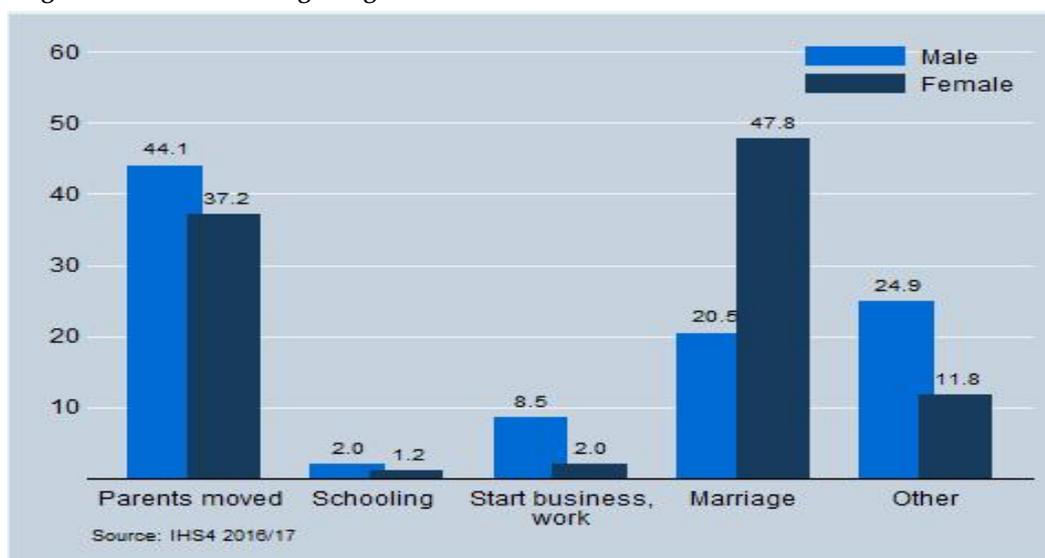


Figure 2.4 shows the patterns of migration. The majority of the migrants moved from rural areas to other rural areas (54 percent), followed by those who moved from rural areas to urban

areas (27 percent). In addition, less than 1 percent of migrants moved from outside Malawi to urban areas.

Figure 2.4 Patterns of migration

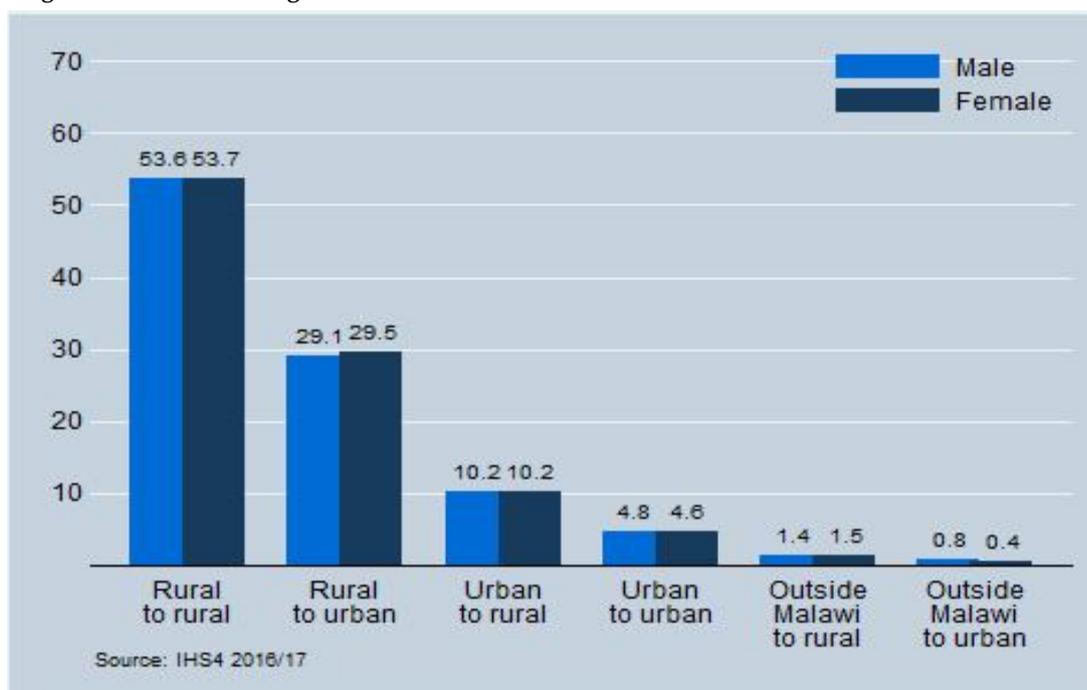


Table 2.7 illustrates the distribution of migrants by movement pattern. Among migrants who moved from rural areas to other rural areas, 45 percent moved due to family reasons followed by 36 percent who moved for marriage. Few migrants moved from rural areas to other rural areas due to schooling (1 percent). Among migrants from rural to urban areas, 52 percent moved due to family reasons and 9 percent moved to start a business or to work. For those who migrated from one urban area to another, 8 percent migrated to start a business or to work.

Among migrants who moved from one rural area to another, at least 52 percent of the migrants were aged between 15 to 34 years and for those who moved from rural to urban were 53 percent in this age bracket.

Table 2.7 Proportion of migrants by movement pattern of migration according to background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Movement pattern of migrants						
	Rural to rural	Rural to urban	Urban to urban	Urban to rural	Outside Malawi to rural	Outside Malawi to urban	Total
Malawi	53.7	29.3	10.3	4.6	1.4	0.6	100
Reasons for migrating							
Family/Parents moved	44.9	51.8	39.9	60.3	51.7	49.5	47.3
Schooling	1.3	2.7	5.6	1.3	1.6	0.0	2.1
Start business/work	3.1	9.2	7.5	2.8	2.1	8.4	5.4
Marriage	35.9	19.5	20.6	10.7	18.2	9.0	27.9
Other	14.9	16.8	26.3	25	26.5	33.2	17.4
Sex of migrant							
Male	45.5	45.3	45.6	46.6	43.7	60.9	45.6
Female	54.5	54.7	54.4	53.4	56.3	39.1	54.4
Age groups of migrant							
0-4	7.4	6.2	7.9	11.2	11.4	14.0	7.4
5-9	12.7	14.6	12.4	11.4	17.5	30.4	13.3
10-14	12.4	14.4	11	11.7	12.8	0.0	12.7
15-19	12.9	12.7	5.6	16.2	13.6	0.0	12.2
20-24	18.7	16	15.8	15.7	11	4.1	17.3
25-29	11.3	13.5	18.3	5.8	11.1	21.5	12.5
30-34	8.7	10.4	11	12.2	4.9	7.6	9.5
35-39	6.3	5.8	7.3	3.4	9.1	13.9	6.2
40-44	3.7	2.9	4.2	4.1	1.8	1.3	3.5
45-49	1.9	1.6	3.4	1.9	0.6	0.0	2.0
50-54	1.3	0.8	1.1	1.7	4.7	0.0	1.2
55-59	0.7	0.4	0.4	1.9	1.4	0.0	0.6
60-64	0.7	0.1	0.6	2.4	0.0	6.5	0.6
65-69	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.4
70-74	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3
75-79	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
80+	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2
Education level of the migrant							
None	75.4	56.2	36.8	50.1	88.7	58.4	64.7
Primary	10.1	10.6	11.6	14.4	4.4	3.0	10.5
Secondary and above	12.4	28.2	30.1	29.1	7.0	8.8	19.5
Tertiary	2.1	5.0	21.4	6.4	0.0	29.8	5.3
Marital status of migrant							
Never married	44	56.7	46.6	61.3	54.4	47.0	49.0
Married	51.7	37.1	49.2	30.5	39.3	44.5	46.0
Divorced/Separated	3.1	4.4	1.5	6.6	6.3	8.5	3.6
Widowed/Widower	1.2	1.8	2.6	1.7	0.0	0.0	1.5

Chapter 3

EDUCATION

3.0 Introduction

Education is a building block for human, political and socioeconomic development, particularly important for poverty reductions because it empowers the poor, the weak and the voiceless by providing them with better opportunities to participate in national development. This chapter first presents information on literacy rates. It further discusses reasons for never attending school amongst those who reported to have never been in school. It also discusses school dropout rates, unpacks reasons for dropping out of school, highest education attainment and school attendance rates. The IHS4 collected data on education for household members aged 5 years and above.

3.1 Literacy status (population aged 15 years and above)

Literacy is described as the ability to read and write in any language. The proportion of the population aged 15 years and above that is literate was at 73 percent indicating an increase of 8 percent in literacy rate compared to 65 percent which was reported in 2010 to 2011 (IHS3)⁷.

A higher share of males aged 15 years and above (81 percent) was literate compared to their female counterparts (66 percent). In regards to place of residence, urban areas registered a higher literacy rate (90 percent) compared to rural areas (68 percent).

Of the three regions, the Northern Region had the highest literacy rate (84 percent) followed by the Central Region (72 percent) and then the Southern Region (71 percent). Among the four cities, Mzuzu city had the highest literacy rate (92 percent) while Lilongwe city had the lowest (90 percent). At district level, excluding cities, the highest literacy rate (89 percent) was registered in Rumphi whilst the lowest literacy rate (57 percent) was registered in Mangochi.

⁷ Refer to IHS3 report (www.nsomalawi.mw)

3.2 Proportion that never attended school

The IHS4 also collected information on school attendance of the population aged 15 years and above. Fourteen percent of the population aged 15 years and above in Malawi reported to have never attended school. A higher proportion of females of this age group (19 percent) had never been to school compared to their male counterparts (9 percent). By place of residence, only 5 percent of people in urban areas had never been to school compared to 17 percent of people in rural areas.

Across regions, the Southern Region had the highest proportion (17 percent) of people who never attended school compared to Central (14 percent) and Northern Regions (4 percent).

At district level, Nsanje had the highest share (29 percent) of the population aged 15 years and above who never attended school while Rumphi had the lowest share (3 percent). Among cities, Mzuzu had the lowest proportion (1 percent) of people who never attended school while Lilongwe and Blantyre tied for the highest percentage (4 percent).

Table 3. 1a Literacy rate for population aged 15 years and above by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Literate
Malawi	72.8
Place of residence	
Urban	89.7
Rural	68.4
Region	
Northern Region	84.9
Central Region	72.1
Southern Region	70.9
Sex	
Male	80.9
Female	65.8
District	
Chitipa	81.9
Karonga	80.1
Nkhata Bay	85.2
Rumphi	88.7
Mzimba	82.3
Likoma	86.6
Mzuzu City	92.1
Kasungu	72.4
Nkhotakota	70.8
Ntchisi	72.0
Dowa	73.3
Salima	60.3
Lilongwe	64.5
Mchinji	73.4
Dedza	63.1
Ntcheu	73.0
Lilongwe City	90.1
Mangochi	57.2
Machinga	65.6
Zomba	69.4
Chiradzulu	70.5
Blantyre	77.4
Mwanza	69.3
Thyolo	68.8
Mulanje	71.7
Phalombe	64.8
Chikwawa	59.9
Nsanje	58.1
Balaka	75.1
Neno	74.1
Zomba City	91.9
Blantyre City	91.8

3.3 Reasons for never attending school

The survey collected information on why respondents never attended school and the reasons included: lack of money, parents not allowing them, helping at home and school being too far from home. About 49 percent of the population aged 15 years and above that

never attended school reported lack of money as the main reason followed by about 23 percent who reported that their parents did not allow them to attend school. By sex of respondents, table 3.1b depicts that the main reason for both females and males that never attended school was due to lack of money.

Across the three regions, lack of money was reported as the main reason for never attending school. This was highest in the South at 50 percent, followed by 48 percent in the Central Region and 32 percent in the North. At district level, Phalombe had the highest share (75 percent) of the population aged 15 years and above who did not attend school because of lack of money while Chitipa (15 percent) had the lowest share of the same age group who had never attended school due to lack of money. Across place of residence, in rural areas, of those who had never attended school about 49 percent was due to lack of money compared to 43 percent in the urban.

Table 3. 1b Proportion never attended school and reasons for not attending school for population aged 15 years and above by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Never Attended	No money for fees, uniform	Parents did not let me	Not interested, lazy	School too far from home	Illness	Had to work or help at home	Other (specify)	Total
Malawi	14.2	48.7	22.9	13.1	5.8	4.2	3.1	2.3	100
Place of residence									
Urban	4.5	42.7	26.0	13.3	3.6	8.3	2.6	3.4	100
Rural	16.7	49.1	22.7	13.0	5.9	3.9	3.1	2.2	100
Northern Region	4.3	32.0	17.5	17.0	17.4	9.6	3.3	3.2	100
Central Region	13.8	48.4	20.8	13.3	6.0	4.7	3.5	3.3	100
Southern Region	16.8	49.8	25.0	12.6	4.9	3.4	2.7	1.5	100
Sex									
Male	8.8	49.1	17.0	15.9	4.2	7.3	3.5	3.0	100
Female	18.9	48.5	25.3	11.9	6.4	2.9	2.9	2.0	100
Districts									
Chitipa	4.4	14.7	14.0	22.0	28.2	13.5	0.0	7.6	100
Karonga	5.2	28.0	23.7	15.1	15.7	6.0	8.1	3.4	100
Nkhata Bay	6.7	32.5	23.4	22.1	15.3	4.5	2.2	0.0	100
Rumphu	2.5	24.5	26.2	12.1	10.1	23.8	0.0	3.3	100
Mzimba	5.0	54.5	1.1	9.0	20.1	12.7	2.5	0.0	100
Likoma	3.4	35.6	8.9	36.5	0.0	14.6	4.4	0.0	100
Mzuzu City	1.3	41.3	0.0	17.3	13.7	10.6	0.0	17.1	100
Kasungu	10.1	44.3	31.9	9.2	5.3	6.0	2.3	1.0	100
Nkhotakota	12.9	28.2	36.0	17.1	2.5	5.4	3.3	7.3	100
Ntchisi	12.4	30.5	28.2	23.3	5.3	2.7	5.3	4.6	100
Dowa	12.5	43.9	33.2	11.7	2.3	4.3	1.7	3.0	100
Salima	21.5	37.8	15.5	10.2	24.5	5.0	1.4	5.5	100
Lilongwe	18.4	49.7	18.6	14.1	5.5	4.4	4.7	2.9	100
Mchinji	13.2	50.3	21.0	8.3	5.4	4.8	4.4	5.7	100
Dedza	22.2	56.7	12.7	18.2	3.5	3.3	4.1	1.6	100
Ntcheu	15.2	66.6	13.8	10.4	1.0	3.7	1.4	3.0	100
Lilongwe City	3.5	44.7	17.1	9.5	6.7	13.4	6.3	2.1	100
Mangochi	24.1	47.2	22.7	14.0	11.3	1.6	2.2	1.0	100
Machinga	23.0	26.7	50.0	12.4	4.5	2.9	2.2	1.3	100
Zomba	11.6	39.4	41.1	9.4	1.1	2.8	2.5	3.7	100
Chiradzulu	17.5	53.2	27.0	5.0	3.2	5.7	3.8	2.2	100
Blantyre	12.3	51.8	25.3	10.7	2.7	4.0	2.8	2.8	100
Mwanza	18.7	52.2	27.6	13.6	2.7	2.2	0.4	1.3	100
Thyolo	17.3	49.7	24.4	6.6	4.6	5.2	7.1	2.4	100
Mulanje	14.6	70.0	9.3	12.6	1.8	4.4	1.3	0.6	100
Phalombe	18.5	74.9	8.4	11.9	0.6	3.1	0.3	0.8	100
Chikwawa	26.3	48.8	21.0	19.8	5.4	3.4	1.7	0.0	100
Nsanje	28.9	48.4	14.0	21.8	5.1	2.3	7.5	0.8	100
Balaka	16.5	53.8	26.8	12.8	3.2	2.6	0.0	0.8	100
Neno	14.8	57.5	19.2	12.2	1.9	3.8	2.1	3.3	100
Zomba City	2.4	66.1	16.5	0.0	5.1	5.3	0.0	7.0	100
Blantyre City	4.4	47.5	31.5	9.2	0.0	6.4	0.0	5.4	100

3.4 Highest qualification acquired (population aged 15 years and above)

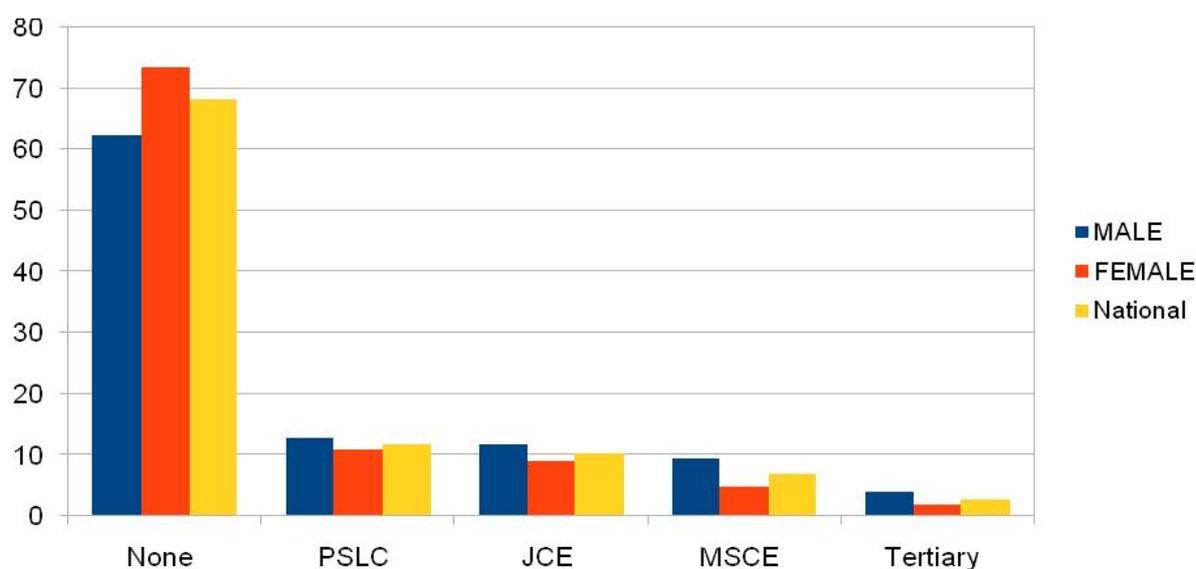
This section looks at the highest qualification acquired for population aged 15 years and above. The qualifications looked at are: Primary School Leaving Certificate (PSLCE), Junior Certificate (JCE), Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) and Tertiary. At the national level, the results show that 70 percent of the population aged 15 years and above

did not have any qualification in Malawi. In other words, only 30 percent of the population aged 15 years and above had acquired any qualification. By place of residence, 78 percent of the population aged 15 years and above in rural areas had no qualification compared to 40 percent in urban areas.

At the regional level, the survey results show 60 percent of the population aged 15 years and above in the Northern Region did not have any qualification. 73 percent of the population of the same age group in the Central Region and 70 percent in the Southern Region did not have any qualification. Across districts, Phalombe had the highest proportion (85 percent) of population of those with no qualification while Likoma had lowest proportion (54 percent).

Of the four cities, Mzuzu had the lowest proportion (31 percent) of those aged 15 years and above having no education qualification. Comparatively, Lilongwe city had a highest proportion (43 percent) of people with no education qualification.

Figure 3. 1 Highest qualification attained by sex of a person, Malawi 2016/17



As noted previously and observed in Figure 3.2, on average, 70 percent of the population in Malawi had not attained any qualification. Figure 3.2 further depicts that females had a slightly higher proportion of people without any qualification. Generally, a higher proportion of household members attained primary school leaving certificate compared to the higher levels of education. For instance, 11 percent of the population had attained primary school leaving certificate while only less than 3 percent had attained tertiary qualification at national level.

Table 3. 2 Proportion of highest education qualification acquired by population aged 15 years and above according to background characteristics

Background characteristics	None	PSLC	JCE	MSCE	Tertiary	Total
Malawi	70.0	11.3	9.8	6.4	2.5	100
Place of residence						
Urban	40.3	13.9	19.4	16.9	9.4	100
Rural	77.7	10.6	7.2	3.7	0.7	100
Northern Region	59.6	15.1	13.2	9.5	2.6	100
Central Region	72.5	10.5	9.3	5.8	1.9	100
Southern Region	69.7	11.3	9.4	6.3	3.2	100
Sex						
Male	63.9	12.7	11.2	8.8	3.4	100
Female	75.4	10.1	8.5	4.3	1.8	100
Districts						
Chitipa	72.4	14.3	8.1	4.6	0.6	100
Karonga	68.4	12.0	10.1	7.2	2.3	100
Nkhata Bay	64.8	15.1	13.0	5.5	1.5	100
Rumphi	55.5	17.3	15.9	8.6	2.6	100
Mzimba	65.0	17.3	9.6	6.1	1.9	100
Likoma	54.2	13.7	19.0	10.2	3.0	100
Mzuzu City	31.1	16.1	22.2	24.1	6.5	100
Kasungu	78.6	10.0	8.7	2.2	0.5	100
Nkhotakota	72.3	9.7	10.8	5.8	1.4	100
Ntchisi	77.4	9.9	8.3	3.4	1.0	100
Dowa	79.1	9.2	8.0	3.4	0.3	100
Salima	82.7	7.6	4.9	3.0	1.8	100
Lilongwe	79.2	9.9	7.0	3.1	0.7	100
Mchinji	74.2	12.1	7.7	5.0	1.0	100
Dedza	81.8	8.4	4.8	4.6	0.4	100
Ntcheu	74.1	11.9	7.5	5.8	0.6	100
Lilongwe City	42.9	13.8	19.5	16.1	7.7	100
Mangochi	81.7	8.3	6.8	2.6	0.6	100
Machinga	81.3	10.0	4.6	3.6	0.5	100
Zomba	81.4	11.2	4.7	2.5	0.1	100
Chiradzulu	73.2	13.2	10.7	2.7	0.3	100
Blantyre	66.4	14.5	10.4	6.5	2.2	100
Mwanza	78.4	8.3	7.9	3.7	1.7	100
Thyolo	76.5	12.2	8.0	2.1	1.2	100
Mulanje	73.0	11.7	5.9	7.6	1.7	100
Phalombe	84.9	7.7	4.8	2.4	0.2	100
Chikwawa	80.6	9.9	6.1	2.4	1.0	100
Nsanje	76.3	10.1	7.8	3.5	2.3	100
Balaka	71.6	11.5	10.5	5.0	1.4	100
Neno	72.0	13.6	9.4	3.2	1.8	100
Zomba City	39.9	12.7	16.6	18.6	12.2	100
Blantyre City	31.2	13.9	20.1	20.2	14.6	100

3.6 Enrolment rates in primary and secondary school

Net enrolment rate (NER) is defined as the number of pupils in the official school-age group expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group². Malawi follows an eight-four-four formal education system. The first eight years are for primary education while secondary lasts for four years and tertiary also lasts another four years. The official entry age for primary education in Malawi is six hence thirteen is the expected exit age. On the other hand, the official entry age in Malawi secondary schools is 14 implying 17 is the expected exit age.

Another measure of the quality of education is gross enrolment rate (GER). This is the ratio between pupils in a level of education, regardless of age, and the corresponding eligible official age-group population to that level of education. It measures the efficiency of the education system and depicts differences with Net Enrolment Rate (NER). Disparities between GER and NER reflect over-age pupils, repetition, late starters and others. In other words, a high ratio of GER does not necessarily indicate a successful education system but could reflect grade repetition, over-age, under-age and late starting of school.

Primary school education

Primary school net enrolment rate for Malawi has slightly increased by 3 percentage points from 85 percent in 2010-2011 to 88 percent in 2016-2017. Figure 3.3 shows that the NER is higher among girls (90 percent) than among boys (86 percent). NER is also almost the same amongst those pupils from male-headed households and female-headed households (88 percent). In urban areas, net enrolment rate is higher (92 percent) in urban area than rural area (87 percent).

Across regions, the Northern Region recorded the highest enrollment rate (93 percent) compared to the South (88 percent) and the centre (86 percent). At the district level, excluding cities, the majority of districts in the Northern Region registered NER of above 90 percent while Salima registered the lowest NER of 77 percent.

Primary school gross enrolment rate for Malawi was at 122 percent. Twenty two percent of pupils enrolled in primary schools were either under or over aged. Comparatively, the IHS4 national GER (122) is higher than the GER reported in IHS3 (120 percent). There are no

major differences in GER between boys in male and female-headed households. Of the three regions, the Northern Region had the highest GER (126 percent) in primary school, followed by the Southern (122 percent) and Central Region (119 percent).

Figure 3. 2 Enrolment rates by sex of pupils, Malawi 2016/17

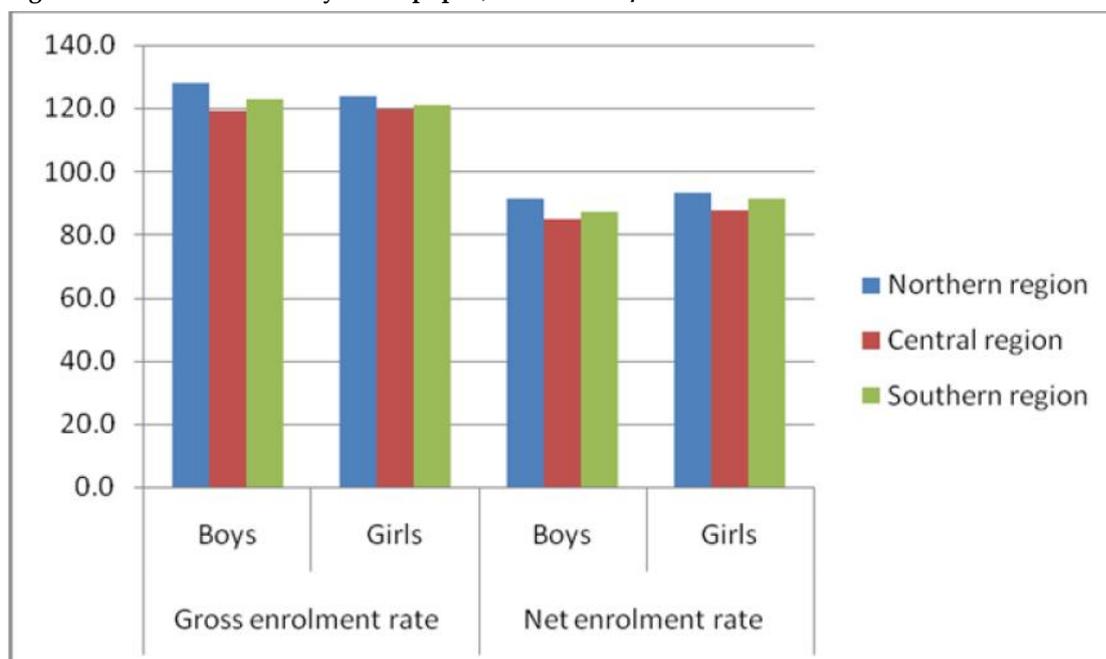


Table 3.3 Enrolment rates at primary school by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Net enrolment rate			Gross enrolment rate		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Malawi	85.9	89.7	87.8	122.7	121.0	121.8
Place of residence						
Urban	90.1	93.4	91.7	123.6	125.0	124.3
Rural	85.0	89.0	87.0	122.5	120.3	121.4
Northern Region	92.0	94.0	93.0	128.0	123.7	125.8
Central Region	84.8	87.7	86.3	119.2	119.4	119.3
Southern Region	85.7	90.8	88.2	122.9	120.9	121.9
Sex of household head						
Male	86.4	89.5	87.9	121.9	120.9	121.4
Female	84.6	90.1	87.5	124.8	121.2	122.9
Districts						
Chitipa	96.3	94.7	95.5	132.7	119.5	126.0
Karonga	92.7	97.0	94.8	125.7	133.5	129.4
Nkhata Bay	89.2	91.9	90.5	132.5	128.5	130.5
Rumphi	89.3	93.1	91.3	134.2	116.4	124.7
Mzimba	93.0	94.9	94.0	124.9	124.4	124.6
Likoma	84.0	88.1	86.3	116.3	126.0	121.7
Mzuzu City	92.4	91.7	92.1	121.6	118.3	120.0
Kasungu	88.7	88.4	88.6	125.6	124.6	125.1
Nkhotakota	87.4	91.0	89.2	131.4	131.8	131.6
Ntchisi	84.1	86.9	85.5	121.4	122.5	122.0
Dowa	89.9	89.3	89.6	132.0	114.3	122.5
Salima	66.7	87.1	76.7	94.8	113.3	103.9
Lilongwe	81.1	85.6	83.3	108.7	110.9	109.8
Mchinji	82.5	87.6	85.3	117.0	119.6	118.4
Dedza	86.9	87.6	87.3	126.2	118.4	121.9
Ntcheu	84.6	82.3	83.4	114.7	106.5	110.5
Lilongwe City	90.2	91.5	90.8	122.5	130.1	126.1
Mangochi	78.9	90.2	84.5	113.9	113.5	113.7
Machinga	88.4	89.3	88.9	118.2	120.8	119.6
Zomba	89.3	94.3	91.9	122.1	130.9	126.7
Chiradzulu	87.3	87.4	87.3	124.5	111.2	118.1
Blantyre	88.2	92.0	90.0	126.0	124.9	125.4
Mwanza	81.2	90.5	85.9	129.3	118.2	123.6
Thyolo	82.8	89.1	86.0	113.4	116.8	115.2
Mulanje	84.9	96.2	90.6	124.1	132.9	128.5
Phalombe	90.9	92.3	91.6	122.3	130.0	126.1
Chikwawa	83.2	83.7	83.5	126.7	105.4	115.6
Nsanje	83.8	86.1	85.0	128.2	110.2	119.4
Balaka	87.6	89.9	88.7	123.5	123.9	123.7
Neno	90.4	93.2	91.8	126.0	119.4	122.7
Zomba City	93.8	95.2	94.5	133.5	139.2	136.2
Blantyre City	88.5	96.3	92.3	112.7	117.6	115.1

Secondary school education

Table 3.4 shows that secondary school net enrolment rate for Malawi was 14 percent. Fourteen percent of the children aged fourteen to seventeen were in secondary schools. The NER was higher among girls (15 percent) compared to boys (14 percent). Furthermore, NER was lower amongst pupils from female-headed population (13 percent) than pupils from

male-headed population (15 percent). By place of residence, the NER was higher (32 percent) in urban areas than rural areas (11 percent). Across regions, in the Northern Region, a greater share (21 percent) of pupils aged between fourteen and seventeen were enrolled in secondary school compared to Southern (15 percent) and Central Region (12 percent).

At district level, excluding cities, Likoma registered the highest secondary school net enrolment rate (30 percent) while Kasungu registered the lowest rate (6 percent).

Gross enrolment rate for Malawi in secondary school was at 42 percent. About 42 percent of the children aged between fourteen and seventeen years were enrolled in secondary school.

Of the three regions, the Northern Region had the highest GER (58 percent) compared to the Central (37 percent) and Southern (38 percent) regions. Across districts, Likoma registered a secondary school GER of 73 percent while that of Phalombe was 21 percent.

Table 3. 4 Enrolment rates at secondary school by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Net enrolment rate			Gross enrolment rate		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Malawi	13.9	14.8	14.3	45.3	39.0	42.2
Place of residence						
Urban	28.4	34.5	31.5	88.4	82.6	85.5
Rural	10.9	10.3	10.6	36.3	29.0	32.7
Northern Region	19.1	22.9	21.0	61.1	55.2	58.2
Central Region	10.9	13.0	12.0	41.2	34.1	37.6
Southern Region	15.9	14.9	15.4	41.0	35.1	38.1
Sex of household head						
Male	14.2	15.8	15.0	47.5	39.7	43.6
Female	13.3	12.3	12.8	40.3	37.4	38.8
Districts						
Chitipa	10.1	13.2	11.6	52.5	43.9	48.3
Karonga	27.3	18.3	23.2	66.2	42.0	54.5
Nkhata Bay	12.2	16.7	14.4	54.9	31.9	43.8
Rumphi	13.5	32.8	22.4	33.3	59.5	44.9
Mzimba	16.4	16.0	16.2	44.9	44.9	44.9
Likoma	34.8	25.5	30.0	86.8	60.7	73.4
Mzuzu City	31.8	38.8	35.7	102.6	102.2	102.3
Kasungu	4.6	7.5	6.1	32.2	29.9	31.0
Nkhotakota	8.9	13.7	11.2	33.9	44.0	38.8
Ntchisi	10.6	8.7	9.7	41.8	25.6	33.5
Dowa	10.0	7.8	9.0	19.5	23.2	21.2
Salima	10.9	12.5	11.7	31.7	16.7	23.7
Lilongwe	11.3	10.8	11.1	37.3	22.4	29.9
Mchinji	7.1	10.8	9.1	37.8	38.4	38.1
Dedza	15.5	6.8	11.5	31.6	19.7	26.0
Ntcheu	8.2	12.6	10.4	47.8	26.4	36.9
Lilongwe City	18.5	29.0	24.3	88.0	68.9	77.4
Mangochi	9.8	3.8	6.8	34.5	23.3	28.7
Machinga	6.6	12.9	10.2	24.3	26.7	25.6
Zomba	7.4	10.4	9.1	30.3	13.8	21.2
Chiradzulu	12.0	20.9	15.7	33.8	60.8	44.8
Blantyre	11.2	10.8	11.0	31.6	30.9	31.3
Mwanza	8.0	11.3	9.3	22.8	27.7	24.8
Thyolo	10.3	14.6	12.7	30.9	24.4	27.3
Mulanje	25.1	13.1	19.0	45.2	26.9	35.8
Phalombe	8.4	6.2	7.1	27.1	16.0	20.7
Chikwawa	13.8	7.3	11.1	36.8	29.9	33.8
Nsanje	13.3	11.0	12.3	34.7	32.8	34.0
Balaka	14.6	15.8	15.3	50.7	23.1	36.2
Neno	6.9	18.2	12.4	41.3	54.0	47.1
Zomba City	31.7	36.4	33.9	75.3	83.3	79.2
Blantyre City	39.7	39.1	39.4	100.0	85.5	93.2

3.7 School attendance by type of school being attended Primary school education

The government was the main provider of primary school education in the country as it provided education to 92 percent of children in primary school. The IHS4 results show a slight increase in the share of pupils that attended government primary schools from 88

percent in 2010-2011 to 92 percent in 2016-2017. About 92 percent of pupils attended government primary schools in both male and female-headed households. By place of residence, 94 percent of pupils in rural areas attended government schools as compared to 81 percent of in urban areas.

Other providers of education in Malawi were privately owned and religious institutions who provided education services to about 3 and 5 percent of the primary education, respectively. About 13 percent of pupils in urban areas attended private schools compared to only 1 percent of pupils in rural areas. Among the three regions, 93 percent of pupils in Southern Region attended government primary schools compared to 92 percent and 90 percent of pupils in the Northern and Central Regions respectively.

Secondary school education

Like at primary school level, the government was also the main provider of education at secondary school level. The IHS4 results show that government provided education to 73 percent of pupils in secondary school compared to 84 percent that was reported in 2010-2011 indicating a decline of 11 percent. By place of residence, a higher proportion (82 percent) of pupils in rural areas went to government schools compared to 56 percent in urban areas. On the other hand, 36 percent of pupils in urban areas went to private schools compared to 14 percent in the rural areas

Results across the three regions indicate that 80 percent of pupils went to government secondary schools while the Southern Region registered the highest proportion (29 percent) of pupils who went to private schools.

Table 3. 5 Type of school attended by pupils according to background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Primary school				Secondary school			
	Public	Private	Religious	Total	Public	Private	Religious	Total
Malawi	91.6	3.3	5.1	100.0	73.3	21.9	4.9	100.0
Place of residence								
Urban	80.8	13.2	6.0	100.0	57.5	35.9	6.5	100.0
Rural	93.9	1.2	4.9	100.0	82.4	13.8	3.9	100.0
Northern Region	91.8	2.2	6.0	100.0	78.7	16.2	5.1	100.0
Central Region	89.9	3.5	6.6	100.0	79.5	16.0	4.5	100.0
Southern Region	93.3	3.3	3.4	100.0	65.5	29.4	5.1	100.0
Sex of pupils								
Male	91.9	3.2	4.9	100.0	74.2	21.6	4.2	100.0
Female	91.4	3.3	5.3	100.0	72.0	22.3	5.7	100.0
Districts								
Chitipa	96.0	0.9	3.1	100.0	86.3	12.1	1.5	100.0
Karonga	91.1	1.5	7.4	100.0	88.3	9.6	2.1	100.0
Nkhata Bay	92.8	1.1	6.1	100.0	74.4	22.2	3.4	100.0
Rumphi	92.5	1.0	6.5	100.0	84.5	10.8	4.7	100.0
Mzimba	93.1	1.8	5.1	100.0	87.8	12.2	0.0	100.0
Likoma	74.5	1.1	24.3	100.0	71.8	20.6	7.6	100.0
Mzuzu City	85.4	8.1	6.4	100.0	65.6	22.6	11.8	100.0
Kasungu	91.2	0.4	8.4	100.0	92.8	5.0	2.2	100.0
Nkhotakota	86.9	1.7	11.4	100.0	76.9	14.0	9.0	100.0
Ntchisi	94.5	0.8	4.7	100.0	92.1	5.8	2.2	100.0
Dowa	86.8	1.2	12.0	100.0	94.6	0.0	5.4	100.0
Salima	88.9	0.6	10.5	100.0	82.6	17.4	0.0	100.0
Lilongwe	92.3	1.3	6.4	100.0	83.9	13.7	2.4	100.0
Mchinji	97.8	0.5	1.6	100.0	87.3	7.7	5.0	100.0
Dedza	94.8	1.0	4.2	100.0	93.4	6.6	0.0	100.0
Ntcheu	92.7	3.3	4.0	100.0	88.7	5.2	6.1	100.0
Lilongwe City	79.3	16.6	4.1	100.0	57.4	35.7	6.9	100.0
Mangochi	96.2	1.5	2.3	100.0	90.2	9.8	0.0	100.0
Machinga	95.1	1.6	3.3	100.0	88.2	6.4	5.4	100.0
Zomba	93.1	1.8	5.1	100.0	65.5	16.7	17.8	100.0
Chiradzulu	94.7	0.7	4.6	100.0	76.7	21.6	1.7	100.0
Blantyre	96.8	2.2	1.0	100.0	78.8	17.0	4.2	100.0
Mwanza	89.8	5.8	4.3	100.0	54.1	39.1	6.8	100.0
Thyolo	98.1	0.3	1.6	100.0	72.2	25.7	2.1	100.0
Mulanje	95.5	2.9	1.6	100.0	57.4	36.2	6.4	100.0
Phalombe	96.8	2.6	0.6	100.0	72.7	27.3	0.0	100.0
Chikwawa	95.0	1.0	4.0	100.0	76.0	14.0	10.0	100.0
Nsanje	96.0	0.3	3.7	100.0	63.9	36.1	0.0	100.0
Balaka	93.6	0.6	5.8	100.0	79.2	7.6	13.2	100.0
Neno	93.5	0.4	6.1	100.0	79.9	19.2	0.9	100.0
Zomba City	85.0	8.7	6.4	100.0	71.1	19.8	9.1	100.0
Blantyre City	76.5	17.8	5.6	100.0	39.3	55.8	4.9	100.0

3.8 School participation of the population aged between 6 and 24 years

Table 3.6 shows that 83 percent of children aged 6 to 9 years participated in junior primary school (i.e. standard 1 to 4) while 94 percent of children aged 10 to 13 years participated in senior primary school (standard 5 to 8). A declining pattern in proportions of pupils who participated in school is depicted with increase in age. For instance, only 72 percent of pupils aged 16 to 17 years participated in school compared

to the previous age groups which were more than this. Similarly, only 27 percent of the students aged 18 to 24 years participated in school. Table 3.6 further shows that in primary schools, the participation of both male and female pupils was high. However, differences are observed when moving towards secondary and tertiary school age where less number of female pupils participated in school than male pupils.

Figure 3.4 shows that school participation in rural and urban areas was high among pupils aged 6 to 13 and it started to decline within secondary school age group.

Figure 3. 3 School participation by place of residence, Malawi 2016 to 2016/17

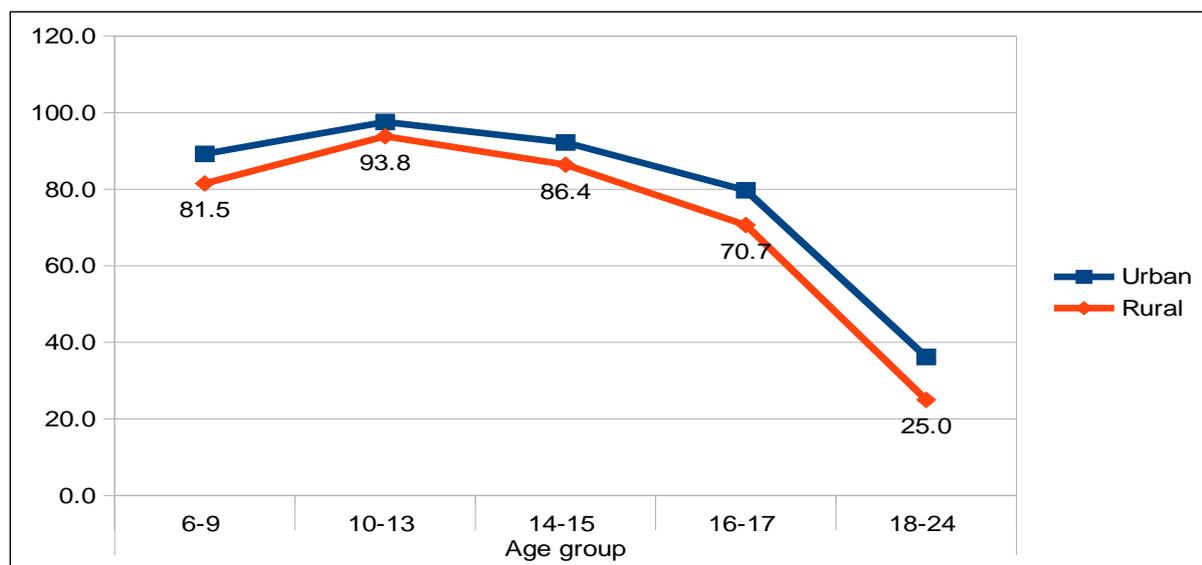


Table 3. 6 Proportion of school participation by age group, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Age group					
	6-9	10-13	14-15	16-17	18-24	Total
Malawi	82.5	94.3	87.2	72.0	26.9	70.3
Place of residence						
Urban	89.8	96.9	92.4	78.4	37.1	74.2
Rural	81.0	93.8	86.1	70.5	24.1	69.4
Northern Region	88.5	98.0	93.9	81.9	35.8	76.1
Central Region	80.7	93.2	86.0	71.3	26.6	69.4
Southern Region	83.1	94.7	87.1	70.5	25.3	69.9
Sex of pupils						
Male	80.3	92.9	88.0	75.3	35.7	72.7
Female	84.7	95.7	86.5	68.6	19.4	67.9
Districts						
Chitipa	92.1	99.0	98.5	82.7	31.6	78.6
Karonga	91.7	99.1	93.9	87.5	35.7	77.6
Nkhata Bay	83.0	97.5	90.8	78.7	37.1	74.9
Rumphi	86.0	96.7	96.2	82.2	24.1	73.4
Mzimba	89.7	98.4	91.0	78.0	29.1	74.1
Likoma	75.6	98.6	95.1	94.7	36.4	75.6
Mzuzu City	89.0	97.0	94.4	82.3	51.1	77.6
Kasungu	85.1	93.6	90.6	72.0	26.7	72.6
Nkhotakota	82.5	96.4	87.6	79.2	38.2	74.4
Ntchisi	77.9	95.8	87.4	83.9	23.0	68.4
Dowa	85.4	93.8	84.4	73.2	21.0	70.3
Salima	68.7	86.9	89.7	66.5	15.5	61.7
Lilongwe	76.6	90.6	82.7	65.1	21.9	66.3
Mchinji	77.1	95.6	85.6	67.6	27.2	68.0
Dedza	82.2	93.1	83.7	73.0	28.0	71.4
Ntcheu	77.8	90.3	79.6	62.3	22.9	63.2
Lilongwe City	87.7	96.8	89.4	78.3	37.1	74.4
Mangochi	77.6	91.7	86.3	64.8	19.7	64.6
Machinga	83.4	94.9	89.8	69.4	21.2	72.1
Zomba	88.3	95.4	79.1	69.9	23.0	72.9
Chiradzulu	83.3	91.9	93.4	74.3	29.0	70.7
Blantyre	83.7	98.2	90.7	68.6	24.4	70.5
Mwanza	81.6	90.8	86.8	74.7	26.3	69.1
Thyolo	77.8	95.0	85.4	62.8	19.5	68.9
Mulanje	89.4	95.6	82.1	63.1	25.7	71.0
Phalombe	87.4	95.9	86.9	71.2	16.2	70.4
Chikwawa	73.1	93.4	86.7	70.3	29.6	68.5
Nsanje	78.0	92.9	75.5	71.6	28.9	68.3
Balaka	85.0	94.2	86.4	78.9	26.0	70.8
Neno	86.8	98.4	89.8	72.8	32.2	73.4
Zomba City	95.6	96.8	90.2	84.2	32.6	74.4
Blantyre City	91.0	99.0	96.3	79.7	32.1	71.9

3.9 Dropout rate and reasons for dropout

School dropout is defined as the percentage of pupils enrolled in a given grade or cycle or a level of education in a given school year who have left school either voluntarily or otherwise. People drop out of school because of a number of factors. In this section, dropout rates and reasons why pupils drop out are presented and discussed.

Primary education

Dropout rate in primary schools in Malawi was at two percent. Almost the same proportion (2 percent) was portrayed in dropout rates in both females and males.

From table 3.7a, slightly more than half (51 percent) of the pupils who dropped out of school cited lack of money as the reason for dropping out while 27 percent of the pupils dropped out because of not having an interest in school.

Secondary education

Dropout rate in secondary schools in Malawi was at 10 percent. Dropout rate is higher among females (11 percent) pupils compare with males (10 percent) pupils. Table 3.7b shows that the Southern Region had the highest percentage of pupils (11 percent) dropping out of school followed by the Central (9 percent) and Northern Region (6 percent). Seventy-two percent of males dropped out of school due to lack of money while 28 percent of the females dropped out of school because they got married.

Table 3.7a Dropout and reasons for dropout at primary school, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Dropout rate Primary	Reasons for dropout at Primary school						
		No money	Not interested	Married	Acquired	Illness	Others	Total
Malawi	2.0	51.4	26.6	9.0	0.9	3.0	9.1	100
Place of residence								
Urban	1.4	35.5	26.0	2.7	0.0	12.5	23.4	100
Rural	2.1	53.2	26.7	9.7	1.0	1.9	7.5	100
Northern Region	1.0	32.6	37.9	20.6	0.0	4.5	4.5	100
Central Region	1.9	41.4	25.2	9.6	3.2	4.0	16.6	100
Southern Region	2.2	57.1	26.4	7.9	0.0	2.4	6.1	100
Sex of pupils								
Male	1.8	55.1	24.4	3.6	1.1	3.6	12.1	100
Female	2.1	48.1	28.5	13.6	0.8	2.5	6.5	100
Districts								
Chitipa	0.2	68.2	0.0	31.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Karonga	0.5	23.9	30.6	45.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Nkhata Bay	0.9	50.1	31.3	0.0	0.0	18.6	0.0	100
Rumphi	1.2	65.6	8.5	14.0	0.0	11.9	0.0	100
Mzimba	1.5	8.1	62.4	18.7	0.0	0.0	10.7	100
Likoma	0.0	42.4	0.0	57.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Mzuzu City	2.5	14.1	61.1	14.8	0.0	0.0	10.0	100
Kasungu	2.1	47.1	5.0	5.8	0.0	0.0	42.0	100
Nkhotakota	1.1	49.3	11.3	24.1	0.0	0.0	15.3	100
Ntchisi	2.2	47.7	27.2	17.9	0.0	7.2	0.0	100
Dowa	1.9	71.0	4.4	24.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Salima	0.4	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Lilongwe	1.5	40.6	46.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.7	100
Mchinji	0.8	39.3	37.3	23.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Dedza	2.4	20.0	44.0	9.5	10.9	0.0	15.6	100
Ntcheu	4.5	21.8	30.2	11.7	9.6	3.1	23.5	100
Lilongwe City	1.8	51.5	15.6	0.0	0.0	21.9	11.0	100
Mangochi	6.9	69.7	23.2	4.4	0.0	0.0	2.7	100
Machinga	1.3	55.6	31.2	9.3	0.0	3.9	0.0	100
Zomba	1.9	49.8	30.4	4.9	0.0	7.6	7.3	100
Chiradzulu	0.8	18.8	62.7	0.0	0.0	18.6	0.0	100
Blantyre	0.9	28.8	44.5	26.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Mwanza	0.5	57.6	42.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Thyolo	1.2	14.8	15.7	26.4	0.0	11.8	31.3	100
Mulanje	1.5	60.7	33.9	0.0	0.0	5.3	0.0	100
Phalombe	2.1	38.7	39.8	15.0	0.0	6.6	0.0	100
Chikwawa	1.2	27.4	38.5	34.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Nsanje	3.1	22.6	6.1	40.2	0.0	0.0	31.1	100
Balaka	3.5	55.5	31.2	10.4	0.0	0.0	2.9	100
Neno	0.4	0.0	64.9	0.0	0.0	35.1	0.0	100
Zomba City	2.3	52.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.0	20.1	100
Blantyre City	0.7	21.4	17.9	0.0	0.0	7.1	53.6	100

Table 3.7b Dropout and reasons for dropout at secondary school, Malawi 2011/17

Background characteristics	Dropout rate Secondary	Reasons for dropout at Secondary school						
		No money	Not interested	Married	Acquired	Found Work	Others	Total
Malawi	10.4	60.2	4.2	15.6	9.7	1.6	8.7	100
Place of residence								
Urban	10.1	55.7	4.2	13.6	13.2	4.3	9.0	100
Rural	10.6	62.9	4.2	16.8	7.6	0.0	8.5	100
Northern Region	5.9	42.7	6.6	17.3	22.9	4.4	6.0	100
Central Region	9.3	51.7	4.3	17.8	10.8	1.0	14.5	100
Southern Region	12.9	66.5	3.9	14.3	7.6	1.6	6.1	100
Sex of pupils								
Male	9.8	72.0	5.7	3.9	9.1	0.6	8.7	100
Female	11.2	47.5	2.6	28.3	10.2	2.7	8.7	100
Districts								
Chitipa	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100
Karonga	2.8	0.0	0.0	60.1	39.9	0.0	0.0	100
Nkhata Bay	7.8	26.3	14.3	33.4	26.1	0.0	0.0	100
Rumphi	11.7	67.0	0.0	11.1	12.3	9.7	0.0	100
Mzimba	5.1	65.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	34.6	100
Likoma	3.5	70.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	29.6	100
Mzuzu City	6.5	48.8	10.5	0.0	23.5	6.7	10.5	100
Kasungu	8.7	58.1	0.0	37.8	4.1	0.0	0.0	100
Nkhotakota	4.9	0.0	0.0	49.4	25.3	0.0	25.3	100
Ntchisi	10.4	85.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	100
Dowa	16.5	28.2	0.0	53.1	0.0	0.0	18.7	100
Salima	21.6	40.7	0.0	12.7	12.7	0.0	33.9	100
Lilongwe	4.1	90.3	0.0	0.0	9.7	0.0	0.0	100
Mchinji	11.1	57.2	0.0	16.1	26.7	0.0	0.0	100
Dedza	12.6	36.7	0.0	18.5	22.5	0.0	22.3	100
Ntcheu	14.7	84.5	0.0	2.6	0.0	0.0	12.9	100
Lilongwe City	7.3	42.7	17.0	7.2	8.7	4.1	20.3	100
Mangochi	20.6	74.7	5.6	19.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Machinga	15.7	76.9	12.3	10.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Zomba	33.0	81.7	0.0	18.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Chiradzulu	9.0	48.1	0.0	28.6	0.0	0.0	23.3	100
Blantyre	7.0	29.7	0.0	0.0	24.2	0.0	46.1	100
Mwanza	3.6	0.0	53.9	46.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Thyolo	3.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Mulanje	7.8	19.6	0.0	0.0	12.6	0.0	67.7	100
Phalombe	21.3	38.1	28.4	0.0	33.5	0.0	0.0	100
Chikwawa	4.3	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Nsanje	2.6	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Balaka	20.6	61.7	0.0	16.9	11.7	6.7	3.0	100
Neno	6.5	33.5	19.5	41.3	0.0	0.0	5.7	100
Zomba City	6.9	85.8	0.0	6.7	0.0	7.5	0.0	100
Blantyre City	14.4	69.9	0.0	7.0	15.8	1.8	5.5	100

Chapter 4

HEALTH

4.0 Introduction

The survey collected data on health and health related issues. The information collected mainly focused on incidence of sickness or injury, what action was taken in the face of sickness or injury. The module further looked at the cases of chronic diseases, whether a person had a chronic illness and who diagnosed that chronic illness. Furthermore, the module collected data on births that occurred 24 months prior to the survey. The module also reports the findings on the proportions of those who were assisted by skilled health personnel. Lastly, the chapter discusses the use of bed nets by household members and under five children.

4.1 Incidence of sickness

Table 4.1 shows that about 26 percent of the interviewed population reported an illness or injury in the 14 days preceding the survey. In terms of residence, there is a higher proportion of people who reported being sick or injured in rural areas compared to urban areas. About 21 percent of people in urban areas reported being sick compared to 27 percent who reported being sick or injured 14 days prior to the survey in the rural areas. This is similar to the trend in IHS-3 which indicated higher percentages of those who reported sickness in rural areas compared to urban areas 14 days prior to the survey.

At regional level, the Central Region reported the highest incidence of illness/injury at 29 percent, followed by the Southern Region at about 23 percent, and the Northern Region at 22 percent.

At district level, there is substantial variation across the districts with Karonga and Blantyre City reporting the lowest at 14 percent while the highest was reported in Dedza and Mchinji at 37 percent. In the Northern Region Mzimba had high percentage of those who reported being sick at about 30 percent while Karonga reported the lowest at 14 percent. In the Central Region, Dedza reported the highest percentage at 37 percent while the lowest was reported in Nkhotakota at 20 percent. In the Southern Region however, the highest percentage was reported in Nsanje at 34 percent while the lowest was reported in Blantyre City at about 14 percent.

4.1.1 Major types of illnesses

The survey also looked at the major illnesses that people suffered from. From Table 4.1, it is shown that fever and malaria was the highest reported illness at about 45 percent followed by sore throat and flu at 15 percent and headache at 9 percent.

At regional level, Southern Region reported the highest percentage of people who suffered from fever and malaria at 46 percent, followed by the Central Region at about 45 percent, and then the Northern Region at 42 percent.

There were some differences in the values reported on fever and malaria across the education levels. Those with no education reported the highest at 46 percent while those with tertiary education reported the lowest at 34 percent.

In the Northern Region, Nkhata-Bay had high percentage of fever and malaria cases at 47 percent followed by Mzimba at 44 percent while Likoma had the lowest cases at 29 percent. In the Central Region, Lilongwe Rural reported the highest percentage at 54 percent while the lowest was reported in Kasungu at 36 percent. In the Southern Region however, the highest percentage was reported in Neno at 57 percent while the lowest was reported in Blantyre City at 35 percent.

There were no variations between males and females who reported to have suffered from fever and malaria. The proportion of both males and females who reported about fever and malaria was at 45 percent.

Table 4.1 Proportion of persons reporting illness/injury and percentage distribution of top most reported diseases in Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Proportion who suffered	Top most diseases suffered from							Total
		Fever and Malaria	Sore throat	Headache	Stomach Ache	Diarrhoea	Respiratory Infection	Other	
Malawi	25.6	45.2	14.5	9.2	7.0	3.9	0.8	19.4	100.0
Residence									
Urban	20.7	41.5	17.4	7.8	5.5	4.0	0.6	23.1	100.0
Rural	26.7	45.9	14.0	9.4	7.3	3.8	0.9	18.7	100.0
Region									
North	21.6	41.8	20.0	9.8	9.8	2.7	1.0	14.9	100.0
Central	29.3	45.3	14.6	9.7	7.5	3.3	0.7	19.0	100.0
Southern	22.7	45.8	13.2	8.3	5.8	4.9	0.9	21.0	100.0
Sex									
Male	25.2	45.2	14.5	9.2	6.9	3.8	0.8	19.6	100.0
Female	25.9	45.1	14.5	9.2	7.1	3.9	0.9	19.2	100.0
Education									
None	26.0	45.7	13.6	9.6	7.2	3.7	0.8	19.4	100.0
Primary	25.1	43.8	15.0	8.8	7.0	4.2	1.0	20.2	100.0
Secondary	21.5	43.5	17.7	7.6	6.0	3.2	0.9	21.1	100.0
Tertiary	17.8	34.4	30.2	2.9	5.2	2.6	0.2	24.5	100.0
District									
Chitipa	15.4	32.4	22.6	14.0	12.6	4.4	2.8	11.3	100.0
Karonga	14.2	38.9	16.6	10.2	11.9	2.6	2.5	17.3	100.0
Nkhata Bay	24.2	46.6	17.1	9.1	7.9	3.2	0.5	15.6	100.0
Rumphi	20.9	40.6	23.0	8.2	5.9	4.7	0.5	17.2	100.0
Mzimba	29.2	43.8	21.1	8.8	12.7	1.5	0.7	11.5	100.0
Likoma	18.9	28.7	25.5	10.8	9.8	2.4	1.0	21.7	100.0
Mzuzu City	27.2	41.7	21.3	10.4	9.4	1.3	0.4	15.5	100.0
Kasungu	30.5	35.7	27.7	8.5	7.2	3.0	0.6	17.4	100.0
Nkhotakota	19.7	47.4	7.0	10.7	9.8	1.6	2.4	21.1	100.0
Ntchisi	25.8	44.9	15.1	8.4	10.0	3.6	2.2	15.7	100.0
Dowa	32.9	41.3	24.2	6.2	7.7	2.5	0.4	17.7	100.0
Salima	22.8	50.4	6.6	12.0	4.4	4.4	0.0	22.1	100.0
Lilongwe	27.0	53.7	6.9	10.0	9.3	3.6	0.6	15.9	100.0
Mchinji	37.0	45.2	2.9	13.3	10.6	4.4	1.2	22.5	100.0
Dedza	37.2	47.8	14.6	10.4	5.0	2.2	0.9	19.2	100.0
Ntcheu	33.4	40.1	17.5	12.2	6.1	3.7	0.8	19.6	100.0
Lilongwe City	24.3	45.5	15.4	7.8	5.5	3.7	0.3	21.9	100.0
Mangochi	19.2	42.7	14.9	6.0	10.8	2.6	2.2	20.8	100.0
Machinga	24.7	44.0	19.0	5.5	8.6	3.5	0.5	19.0	100.0
Zomba	29.7	46.8	16.4	8.0	5.0	3.8	0.0	20.2	100.0
Chiradzulu	19.3	41.6	16.4	11.4	6.2	6.7	1.9	15.9	100.0
Blantyre	25.0	52.2	11.0	6.6	4.6	4.6	1.1	19.9	100.0
Mwanza	23.7	52.1	6.1	11.3	3.7	2.6	2.0	22.2	100.0
Thyolo	24.1	48.8	11.3	7.8	3.5	2.7	0.0	25.8	100.0
Mulanje	21.9	43.8	11.0	8.4	5.6	6.1	0.9	24.2	100.0
Phalombe	19.2	47.9	16.9	5.4	5.4	5.9	1.0	17.5	100.0
Chikwawa	30.6	50.3	6.8	14.9	3.8	7.7	1.0	15.5	100.0
Nsanje	34.8	45.4	4.8	12.9	3.9	10.0	1.5	21.4	100.0
Balaka	22.0	50.5	15.9	4.4	6.2	2.1	0.5	20.3	100.0
Neno	25.3	57.4	4.5	8.4	6.5	2.2	1.8	19.1	100.0
Zomba City	25.7	46.7	11.7	6.8	3.7	5.1	0.3	25.7	100.0
Blantyre City	13.9	34.7	20.3	5.3	3.3	6.3	0.2	29.8	100.0

4.1.2 Action taken in the face of illness or injury

The survey collected information on the actions taken by respondents who reported being ill or injured in the past 14 days preceding the survey. This aspect was necessary to understand the feelings of people in general when it comes to sickness and use of health facilities/ health resources and establish the challenges that communities meet that can prevent them from using health facilities/ health resources.

Table 4.2 shows that 46 percent of the interviewed population sought treatment at a government health facility, 27 percent used a local pharmacy and about 10 percent looked for treatment from other facilities that included private and Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM) health facilities. However, there was still a certain proportion of the population that did nothing in the face of sickness/injury. About 5 percent did nothing because they felt that the sickness or the injury was not serious while 4 percent did nothing giving the reason that they had no money either for transport or to pay for the treatment at the health facility.

While the proportion that did not use health facilities seems to be lower, it is still an indicator that some portions of the population are not making use of the available health facilities/health resources. It could be due to distance to the available health facility or what is available to them is at a fee and they cannot afford the fee. Whatever, the reason may be the bottom line is that there is a proportion that cannot access and use the health facilities.

In terms of place of residence, there is a slightly higher proportion of people who reported getting treatment from government health facilities in rural areas compared to urban areas. About 46 percent of people in rural reported seeking treatment at government health facility compared to 45 percent in rural areas.

There were no variations between males and females who sought treatment at government health facility. The proportion of both males and females who sought treatment at a government health facility was at 46 percent.

Table 4.2 Actions taken in face of illness/injury by background characteristics Malawi 2016/17

Top actions taken in the face of illness								
Background characteristics	Sought treatment at gvt health facility	Local pharmacy or grocery	Sought treatment at other health facility	Had medicine, known remedies	Did Nothing, not serious	Did Nothing, no money	Other	Total
Malawi	46.0	26.7	10.4	6.2	5.2	3.9	1.6	100.0
Residence								
Urban	44.9	24.9	14.8	7.0	5.3	1.5	1.6	100.0
Rural	46.2	27.0	9.6	6.1	5.2	4.3	1.6	100.0
Region								
North	55.3	18.7	9.5	9.0	3.9	1.9	1.7	100.0
Central	41.6	28.0	11.6	6.6	5.8	4.9	1.4	100.0
Southern	49.8	26.6	9.0	5.0	4.6	3.0	1.9	100.0
Sex								
Male	46.0	27.0	10.4	6.1	5.1	3.8	1.6	100.0
Female	46.0	26.4	10.5	6.3	5.2	4.0	1.6	100.0
Education								
None	45.8	27.5	9.5	6.1	5.2	4.3	1.7	100.0
Primary	46.0	26.5	11.1	7.4	5.0	2.7	1.2	100.0
Secondary	45.1	24.8	14.5	6.5	5.9	2.0	1.3	100.0
Tertiary	29.0	27.0	29.0	4.5	8.6	1.1	0.9	100.0
District								
Chitipa	56.1	20.9	3.8	5.6	6.2	5.9	1.5	100.0
Karonga	60.4	21.2	5.3	6.0	2.9	3.8	0.4	100.0
Nkhata Bay	66.9	9.2	6.1	12.4	2.9	1.6	0.8	100.0
Rumphi	58.6	9.8	12.0	13.9	4.7	0.8	0.4	100.0
Mzimba	49.0	24.9	15.1	4.1	3.0	1.7	2.2	100.0
Likoma	66.7	3.3	18.1	7.8	1.7	1.8	0.6	100.0
Mzuzu City	40.6	28.1	12.0	9.8	4.9	0.1	4.4	100.0
Kasungu	43.6	31.3	6.2	6.0	6.0	5.8	1.0	100.0
Nkhotakota	52.5	27.1	8.2	5.8	3.1	2.7	0.7	100.0
Ntchisi	51.1	24.9	5.7	5.6	6.2	5.4	1.0	100.0
Dowa	44.2	24.4	11.6	4.2	6.7	6.5	2.4	100.0
Salima	41.5	21.0	18.3	6.9	7.2	3.8	1.3	100.0
Lilongwe	40.0	30.3	14.5	6.7	3.8	3.1	1.6	100.0
Mchinji	45.4	32.8	10.6	6.1	3.2	1.3	0.5	100.0
Dedza	37.3	23.2	9.7	11.6	7.4	8.8	2.1	100.0
Ntcheu	34.7	28.5	5.6	10.0	9.3	10.4	1.4	100.0
Lilongwe City	39.3	29.0	20.4	3.1	6.1	1.2	1.0	100.0
Mangochi	44.6	28.1	9.7	7.4	4.4	3.2	2.7	100.0
Machinga	54.1	29.5	6.2	3.3	2.1	3.2	1.6	100.0
Zomba	41.7	33.2	9.3	2.7	4.5	6.2	2.4	100.0
Chiradzulu	47.8	30.8	5.2	6.0	6.0	2.5	1.6	100.0
Blantyre	54.6	29.4	7.6	2.3	2.8	1.0	2.4	100.0
Mwanza	59.6	30.1	2.0	2.0	3.1	1.1	2.1	100.0
Thyolo	40.3	28.1	13.3	6.4	5.6	3.3	3.0	100.0
Mulanje	58.9	20.8	6.4	4.1	5.9	1.1	2.7	100.0
Phalombe	59.7	21.4	5.3	2.7	8.7	1.1	1.0	100.0
Chikwawa	52.0	27.9	7.2	2.6	4.1	4.5	1.8	100.0
Nsanje	50.3	24.6	8.6	2.7	8.3	4.5	1.0	100.0

Table 4.2 continued

Background characteristics	Sought treatment at gvt health facility	Local pharmacy or grocery	Sought treatment at other health facility	Had medicine, known remedies	Did Nothing, not serious	Did Nothing, no money	Other	Total
Balaka	47.5	23.3	16.0	7.8	0.9	3.9	0.7	100.0
Neno	66.7	18.0	7.6	1.7	3.4	0.7	1.9	100.0
Zomba City	54.1	22.9	7.0	5.6	6.1	2.8	1.5	100.0
Blantyre City	44.4	21.4	16.6	12.5	3.4	0.4	1.3	100.0

4.2 Incidence of chronic illness

The survey also collected information on chronic illnesses. This aimed at getting an insight on the overall prevalence of chronic illnesses, proportion of those chronically ill and diagnosed with chronic illnesses.

The overall prevalence of reported chronic illnesses in Malawi is at 6 percent, one percent increase from IHS-3 (2010-2011) which was at 5 percent. Table 4.3 below reveals that there were more cases of chronic illnesses reported in female-headed households at 9 percent compared to 6 percent in male-headed households. There is a slightly higher proportion of those chronically ill in urban areas which was at 7 percent compared to 6 percent in the rural areas. The major reported chronic illness during IHS 4 was Asthma which contributed to 21 percent of all reported chronic illnesses. Despite having low prevalence rate of HIV and AIDS at 6 percent reported during IHS 4 in Malawi, HIV and AIDS was the second most reported chronic illness with 19 percent suffering from it. There were more HIV and AIDs cases reported in urban areas compared to rural at about 24 percent and 17 percent respectively.

At regional level, there was a high proportion of chronic illnesses reported in the Southern Region at 7 percent compared to 6 and 5 percent for Central and Northern Region respectively. Similar pattern was observed in the prevalence of HIV and AIDS across these regions with Southern Region reporting 26 percent compared to 17 percent for Northern Region and 11 percent for Central Region. Across the districts, Chitipa had the lowest prevalence of chronic illnesses at 3 percent compared to Zomba rural which reported the highest at 9 percent. HIV and AIDS reported cases were highest in Phalombe at 37 percent while the lowest was reported in Ntchisi at zero percent. In the Northern Region Likoma had high percentage of chronic cases at 8 percent while Rumphi and Chitipa had the lowest cases at 3 percent. In the Central Region, Dedza reported the highest percentage at 9 percent while the lowest was reported in Ntcheu at 4 percent. In the Southern Region however, the highest percentage was reported in Zomba rural at 9 percent while the lowest was reported in Mangochi at about 4 percent. It has to be pointed out also that though the column for “Other”

in the table shows the highest reported cases, it has been ignored due to the fact that it was a bundle of many minor illnesses that could not be reported on their own.

Table 4.3 Proportion of reported chronic illness and its distribution by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Proportion chronically ill	Type of chronic illness reported								
		Asthma	HIV and AIDS	Epilepsy	Stomach disorder	Mental illness	Chronic Malaria/ Fever	Arthritis/ Rheumatism	Other	Total
Malawi	6.4	20.8	18.8	5.2	5.5	4.0	3.5	3.3	38.8	100.0
Residence										
Urban	7.4	24.8	24.0	2.8	3.7	3.0	0.4	3.9	37.4	100.0
Rural	6.2	19.7	17.4	5.9	6.0	4.3	4.4	3.1	39.2	100.0
Region										
North	5.4	23.5	17.4	4.1	6.3	5.5	2.8	2.8	37.7	100.0
Central	6.1	20.6	11.2	5.0	6.4	5.1	3.5	5.2	43.0	100.0
Southern	6.9	20.4	26.2	5.7	4.6	2.7	3.7	1.6	35.1	100.0
Sex of household head										
Male	5.8	21.1	18.2	4.6	6.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	40.2	100.0
Female	8.6	20.0	20.2	6.7	4.0	5.9	4.2	3.4	35.6	100.0
Education										
None	6.5	19.8	19.0	5.8	5.8	4.3	3.7	3.4	38.2	100.0
Primary	6.8	22.7	19.7	3.8	4.6	3.4	2.9	3.0	39.9	100.0
Secondary	6.9	22.9	18.1	2.8	4.3	3.2	1.7	4.3	42.6	100.0
Tertiary	7.3	26.8	7.8	2.0	3.2	1.6	2.0	2.0	54.5	100.0
District										
Chitipa	3.0	35.2	10.9	5.5	8.5	6.0	0.0	1.8	32.1	100.0
Karonga	5.0	12.9	11.7	3.3	12.3	7.7	3.7	5.0	43.5	100.0
Nkhata Bay	5.8	24.9	16.2	2.5	1.4	4.7	5.0	1.5	43.8	100.0
Rumphi	6.0	30.3	19.1	6.5	6.1	3.7	0.0	0.8	33.5	100.0
Mzimba	6.3	17.3	16.3	8.2	8.7	8.3	4.9	3.7	32.5	100.0
Likoma	7.9	46.1	7.6	5.3	3.4	8.8	3.7	2.5	22.7	100.0
Mzuzu City	6.3	26.7	27.5	0.5	3.2	2.9	0.6	3.4	35.2	100.0
Kasungu	5.4	21.5	20.0	3.0	3.0	6.2	2.5	3.0	40.8	100.0
Nkhotakota	4.7	20.6	15.5	3.7	13.1	1.2	7.5	6.9	31.6	100.0
Ntchisi	5.1	13.9	0.0	10.6	6.5	3.7	4.1	10.7	50.5	100.0
Dowa	5.3	23.6	4.7	3.7	5.7	5.2	1.7	15.3	40.2	100.0
Salima	8.5	28.7	12.6	2.0	2.4	4.0	7.4	5.5	37.5	100.0
Lilongwe	4.8	17.7	8.6	4.8	9.8	9.3	7.0	4.4	38.3	99.9
Mchinji	5.8	14.1	14.1	21.3	11.8	4.8	1.1	1.7	31.0	100.0
Dedza	8.7	12.7	5.8	0.3	7.0	7.2	4.7	0.4	61.8	100.0
Ntcheu	4.4	7.1	6.5	4.7	4.9	3.2	2.7	0.9	70.0	100.0
Lilongwe City	8.4	30.3	15.3	4.4	3.9	2.3	0.0	6.8	36.9	100.0
Mangochi	3.6	33.7	24.5	14.4	0.6	5.0	0.0	1.6	20.2	100.0
Machinga	8.0	16.2	19.9	5.6	13.6	2.4	8.2	0.4	33.7	100.0
Zomba	9.2	19.5	30.2	4.4	2.2	0.2	8.3	0.0	35.2	100.0
Chiradzulu	6.6	16.3	30.3	3.8	8.6	2.3	3.0	0.0	35.7	100.0
Blantyre	8.1	22.8	22.3	3.2	3.1	6.0	3.7	6.7	32.2	100.0
Mwanza	4.7	27.8	18.6	4.1	5.5	2.5	2.8	0.0	38.7	100.0
Thyolo	9.0	12.9	28.1	7.3	4.5	1.6	1.0	1.1	43.6	100.0
Mulanje	7.9	10.4	36.7	7.6	3.2	2.0	5.4	2.4	32.3	100.0
Phalombe	4.7	10.1	37.2	8.9	1.8	3.1	5.8	2.3	30.9	100.0
Chikwawa	7.6	32.1	9.5	7.4	4.6	1.9	4.8	1.6	38.2	100.0
Nsanje	8.1	36.9	11.7	1.3	4.1	1.5	3.8	3.8	36.9	100.0
Balaka	7.8	20.6	26.4	4.9	4.7	7.8	1.8	0.7	33.2	100.0
Neno	5.8	27.2	34.2	2.3	0.6	3.5	7.9	0.0	24.3	100.0
Zomba City	8.8	32.6	26.8	1.4	0.1	1.2	1.1	0.0	36.8	100.0
Blantyre City	6.4	16.3	33.2	2.1	1.9	2.0	0.0	3.2	41.3	100.0

4.2.1 Diagnosis of chronic illnesses

The section aimed at understanding the usage of health personnel in the diagnosis of chronic illnesses. This was important as the attitudes of the households will have a great influence in the uptake of certain services that are provided.

Table 4.4 shows that 63 percent of the respondents indicated that their chronic illnesses were diagnosed by a medical worker at the hospital followed by 21 percent whose illnesses were diagnosed by a medical worker at the other health facility. While the proportion indicating usage of health personnel is high there is still a proportion of the population (8 percent) who believed that they could diagnose the illness themselves.

There is a big difference between urban and rural areas on those diagnosed by a medical worker at a hospital. The percentage in urban areas stands at about 75 compared to 60 percent in the rural areas. On the other hand, those who indicated having diagnosed by a medical worker at other health facility, the proportion was slightly higher in rural areas at about 22 percent compared to urban areas at 18 percent.

Regionally, Northern Region reported the highest percentage of those who had the illness diagnosed by a medical worker at the hospital at 77 percent compared to Central Region and Southern Region which was at 62 percent each.

Education wise, there is an indication that those with higher education tend to seek the services of health personnel at the hospital compared to those with no education. As shown from the figures, 63 percent of those with no education sought the services of a health personnel at the hospital compared to 81 percent of those with tertiary education who sought the services of a health personnel at the hospital.

Across the districts in Malawi, high percentage was reported in Zomba City at 97 percent of those whose chronic illnesses were diagnosed by health personnel at the hospital while the lowest was reported in Ntcheu at 38 percent.

In the Northern Region, Mzuzu City had the highest percentage of cases diagnosed by health personnel at hospital at 94 percent while Karonga had the lowest cases at 49 percent.

In the Central Region, Lilongwe City reported highest percentage at 77 percent while the lowest was reported in Ntcheu at 38 percent.

In the Southern Region, the highest percentage was reported in Zomba City at 97 percent while Blantyre rural reported the lowest 42 percent.

The proportion of those diagnosed by health surveillance assistants were the lowest across all the categories with most districts reporting zero percent cases diagnosed by health surveillance assistants with the exception of Blantyre rural, Mzuzu and Mzimba which reported 4, 3 and 2 percent respectively.

Table 4.4 Distribution of those who diagnosed chronic illnesses by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/2017

Background characteristics	Medical worker at hospital	Medical worker at health facility	Self	Traditional healer	Health Surveillance Assistant	Other	Total
Malawi	63.2	20.7	8.3	1.5	0.5	5.8	100
Residence							
Urban	74.6	17.5	4.1	0.6	0.4	2.9	100
Rural	60.0	21.6	9.5	1.8	0.5	6.6	100
Region							
North	76.5	13	6.2	0.7	0.8	2.7	100
Central	62.3	17	10.5	2.4	0.3	7.5	100
Southern	61.6	25.5	6.7	0.8	0.6	4.8	100
Sex							
Male	63.7	20.3	8.8	1.6	0.4	5.2	100
Female	62.1	21.6	7.3	1.4	0.5	7.1	100
Education							
None	62.6	20.6	8.6	1.6	0.4	6.1	100
Primary	64.1	21.2	8.5	1.3	0.4	4.6	100
Secondary	67.0	22.4	6.1	0.7	0.6	3.2	100
Tertiary	80.6	9.3	6.8	0.6	0.0	2.7	100
District							
Chitipa	63.5	21.5	11.9	0.0	0.0	3.1	100
Karonga	49.4	30.8	16.4	1.2	0.0	2.3	100
Nkhata Bay	77.6	14.6	4.3	0.8	0.0	2.7	100
Rumphi	79.1	8.5	8.0	1.0	0.0	3.4	100
Mzimba	90.9	3.5	0.0	0.7	1.9	3	100
Likoma	89.5	7.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	100
Mzuzu City	93.7	1.1	0.0	0.0	2.9	2.2	100
Kasungu	73.1	12.9	4.4	2.3	0.0	7.2	100
Nkhotakota	56.0	13.0	18.4	0.0	0.5	12.1	100
Ntchisi	63.1	11.3	16.4	0.0	0.0	9.2	100
Dowa	61.8	24.1	8.3	1.9	0.6	3.3	100
Salima	59.0	19.1	7.3	1.8	0.0	12.8	100
Lilongwe	57.8	16.2	17.7	4.3	0.0	4	100
Mchinji	53.1	30.5	5.6	3.5	0.9	6.3	100
Dedza	52.2	15.9	16.5	1.4	0.8	13.3	100
Ntcheu	38.1	25.5	18.3	8.0	0.0	10.1	100
Lilongwe City	79.0	11.5	3.5	1.4	0.0	4.6	100
Mangochi	61.8	16.1	7	2.8	0.0	12.4	100
Machinga	76.5	8.4	11.4	0.0	0.8	2.7	100
Zomba	82.5	6.3	5.2	0.6	0.6	4.9	100
Chiradzulu	59.2	24.1	10.8	0.7	0.0	5.2	100
Blantyre	42.0	40.9	5.7	0.0	3.8	7.6	100
Mwanza	67.1	20.4	6.0	0.6	0.0	6.0	100
Thyolo	51	32.5	6.9	1.6	1.7	6.4	100
Mulanje	74.9	13.2	7.7	0.3	0.0	3.9	100
Phalombe	52.6	24.8	6.1	0.8	0.0	15.7	100
Chikwawa	45.9	48.5	3	2.4	0.0	0.1	100
Nsanje	45.8	47.8	3.3	0.8	0.0	2.3	100
Balaka	77.4	15.3	3.6	0.0	0.0	3.7	100
Neno	72.5	18.8	5.3	0.0	0.0	3.4	100
Zomba City	97.0	0	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.8	100
Blantyre City	44.7	44.8	8.0	0.0	0.5	2.1	100

4.3 Reproductive health

During the survey, information was collected on place of delivery and assistance given during delivery. The information was collected from women aged between 12 and 49 years.

4.3.1 Place of delivery

Table 4.5 shows the proportion of women by place of delivery for the child born in the last 24 months. A high proportion of women (95 percent) delivered at the hospital compared to 4 percent who delivered at home and zero percent who delivered at other places.

Those who gave birth at home are more pronounced in rural areas at 5 percent compared to 2 percent in the urban areas. Across regions, Central Region reported the lowest proportion of those who delivered at home at 4 percent while Southern Region reported highest proportion at 5 percent.

Table 4.5 Proportion by place of delivery for women aged 12-49 by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Place of delivery for the child born in the last 24 months				
Background characteristics	Hospital	Home	Other	Total
Malawi	95.3	4.3	0.4	100.0
Residence				
Urban	98.2	1.6	0.2	100.0
Rural	94.7	4.9	0.4	100.0
Region				
North	95.4	4.3	0.3	100.0
Central	95.8	3.6	0.5	100.0
Southern	94.8	5.0	0.2	100.0
Sex of household head				
Male	95.5	4.2	0.3	100.0
Female	94.5	4.9	0.6	100.0
Education				
None	94.8	4.9	0.3	100.0
Primary	97.1	2.6	0.3	100.0
Secondary	97.9	1.7	0.4	100.0
Tertiary	98.0	1.7	0.3	100.0
District				
Chitipa	94.5	5.2	0.3	100.0
Karonga	95.8	3.5	0.7	100.0
Nkhata Bay	95.6	4.4	0.0	100.0
Rumphi	96.9	3.1	0.0	100.0
Mzimba	93.1	6.5	0.5	100.0
Likoma	96.5	3.5	0.0	100.0
Mzuzu City	96.2	3.8	0.0	100.0
Kasungu	93.4	6.6	0.0	100.0
Nkhotakota	97.0	2.4	0.6	100.0
Ntchisi	98.4	0.7	0.9	100.0
Dowa	96.4	3.1	0.5	100.0
Salima	94.5	5.5	0.0	100.0
Lilongwe	92.8	5.7	1.4	100.0
Mchinji	98.0	2.0	0.0	100.0
Dedza	97.5	2.5	0.0	100.0
Ntcheu	97.1	2.3	0.5	100.0
Lilongwe City	97.6	2.0	0.4	100.0
Mangochi	92.2	7.8	0.0	100.0
Machinga	95.8	4.2	0.0	100.0
Zomba	92.3	7.7	0.0	100.0
Chiradzulu	98.9	0.6	0.6	100.0
Blantyre	95.1	4.9	0.0	100.0
Mwanza	96.4	2.9	0.7	100.0
Thyolo	95.1	4.0	0.9	100.0
Mulanje	96.3	3.2	0.5	100.0
Phalombe	96.4	3.3	0.3	100.0
Chikwawa	89.1	10.7	0.2	100.0
Nsanje	85.8	14.2	0.0	100.0
Balaka	97.3	2.4	0.3	100.0
Neno	98.2	1.8	0.0	100.0
Zomba City	95.8	3.8	0.4	100.0
Blantyre City	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0

4.3.2 Type of assistance during delivery

During the survey, information on the type of assistance during delivery was collected. Table 4.6 below shows that 77 percent of those who gave birth at the health facility were helped by the nurses or midwives while 19 percent were assisted by the doctors or clinical officers. There were variations between urban and rural areas with urban areas reporting 25 percent being assisted by the doctors compared to 18 percent in the rural areas. A reverse pattern however is observed on those assisted by nurses with the urban areas reporting 74 percent while the rural areas reported 77 percent. This can be an indicator that not many doctors are in rural areas.

A similar pattern is observed across education background of women. The results show that 32 percent of those with tertiary education were assisted by doctors or clinical officers while those with no education recorded the lowest proportion at 18 percent.

Across regions, Northern Region reported the lowest proportion of those assisted by doctors at 11 percent compared to 21 percent in the Central Region. A reverse of the situation is however, observed for those assisted by nurses with Northern Region reporting the highest proportion at 85 percent compared to 77 percent in the Southern Region. Across districts, Ntcheu reported the highest proportion of those who were assisted by doctors or clinicians at 30 percent while Rumphi was the lowest reporting 4 percent of births being assisted by doctors or clinicians.

Table 4.6 Proportion of births assisted by skilled health personnel by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Nurse/ Midwife	Doctor/ Clinician	Friend or relative	Traditional birth Attendant	Self	Other	Total
Malawi	76.7	19.0	2.6	1.2	0.4	0.1	100.0
Residence							
Urban	73.5	24.7	1.0	0.2	0.6	0.0	100.0
Rural	77.4	17.8	2.9	1.4	0.4	0.1	100.0
Region							
North	85.2	10.6	2.8	0.7	0.6	0.0	100.0
Central	74.7	21.3	2.0	1.4	0.4	0.2	100.0
Southern	76.8	18.6	3.1	1.1	0.4	0.0	100.0
Sex of household head							
Male	76.7	19.4	2.4	1.0	0.4	0.1	100.0
Female	76.7	17.7	3.4	1.8	0.2	0.1	100.0
Education of woman							
None	77.0	18.3	2.8	1.4	0.4	0.1	100.0
Primary	76.7	20.3	1.4	0.8	0.5	0.2	100.0
Secondary	76.1	21.7	1.4	0.5	0.2	0.1	100.0
Tertiary	66.6	32.2	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.3	100.0
District							
Chitipa	87.4	8.3	3.3	0.0	1.1	0.0	100.0
Karonga	82.1	12.1	2.6	1.7	1.5	0.0	100.0
Nkhata Bay	88.9	8.5	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Rumphi	95.1	3.9	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	100.0
Mzimba	81.3	11.2	5.1	2.1	0.0	0.3	100.0
Likoma	88.4	8.9	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Mzuzu City	77.3	18.9	2.8	0.0	1.0	0.0	100.0
Kasungu	79.1	15.2	3.8	1.5	0.4	0.0	100.0
Nkhotakota	71.7	26.3	1.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	100.0
Ntchisi	77.6	20.8	0.0	0.8	0.7	0.0	100.0
Dowa	81.4	15.0	1.8	0.9	0.4	0.5	100.0
Salima	68.9	26.1	2.9	2.2	0.0	0.0	100.0
Lilongwe	72.7	20.6	2.6	3.6	0.5	0.0	100.0
Mchinji	81.7	16.4	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Dedza	72.2	25.3	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.7	100.0
Ntcheu	65.9	30.3	2.2	0.2	0.9	0.5	100.0
Lilongwe City	75.4	22.2	1.3	0.5	0.6	0.0	100.0
Mangochi	79.6	13.0	4.1	3.4	0.0	0.0	100.0
Machinga	70.5	26.9	1.8	0.5	0.3	0.0	100.0
Zomba	65.5	26.9	4.3	1.5	1.9	0.0	100.0
Chiradzulu	78.5	20.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.6	100.0
Blantyre	76.8	18.3	3.9	0.6	0.3	0.0	100.0
Mwanza	73.6	22.8	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Thyolo	78.5	16.7	3.6	0.3	0.9	0.0	100.0
Mulanje	93.8	5.2	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Phalombe	91.6	6.9	1.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	100.0
Chikwawa	71.8	17.4	7.7	2.7	0.5	0.0	100.0
Nsanje	63.0	22.7	11.9	1.0	1.4	0.0	100.0
Balaka	71.9	25.7	1.5	0.9	0.0	0.0	100.0
Neno	75.6	22.5	1.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	100.0
Zomba City	75.4	22.5	1.8	0.0	0.3	0.0	100.0
Blantyre City	74.6	24.8	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	100.0

4.4 Malaria and Use of bed nets

Malaria still remains a major public health problem in many sub Sahara African countries including Malawi. The results obtained in table 4.1 clearly indicate that fever and malaria is the major type of illness that many people suffer from in Malawi. The proportion of those who suffered from fever and malaria was the highest (45 percent) among all illnesses that were reported during IHS4 in Malawi. One of the ways to reduce the spread of malaria through mosquito bites is the use of bed nets. During the survey, information on whether members of households use bed nets was collected. The idea was to check on whether at some point in the year people are able to use bed nets to protect themselves and especially the children under the age of five from malaria.

Table 4.7 below shows that 87 percent of households in the country had at least a member who slept under a bed net to protect himself/herself against mosquito bites at some time during the year. The proportion is an improvement from 58 percent reported in IHS3 (2010-2011). The proportion was higher in urban areas at 90 percent compared to rural areas at 87 percent.

There was a minimal difference between male-headed households who had at least a member sleeping under a bed net at 87 percent compared to female-headed households who were at 88 percent. Across different education levels, people with higher education tend to use bed nets more than those with no education. For example, at secondary level, 92 percent of interviewed households had at least one member sleeping under mosquito net compared to 86 percent of those who had no education.

Of particular importance were households that indicated that they had a child who was under the age of five. Since these are more vulnerable and at high risk of dying from malaria, the survey wanted to establish to what extent were the under-fives protected. The table below shows that 96 percent of households had children under the age of five who slept under a bed net; an improvement from the last IHS3 which was at 93 percent. The proportion is the same for rural and urban households at 96 percent.

The results further show that there was no difference in proportion of under-five children who slept under a bed net for female-headed and male-headed households which was at 96 percent. There seems to be a slight relationship between education level of a woman and proportion

of children under the age of five who slept under a bed net. For no education and those with primary education, the proportion was at 96 percent compared to secondary and tertiary education which was at 97 percent.

Across regions, the Northern Region reported a slightly higher proportion of households where children under the age of five slept under a mosquito net at 98 percent compared to Southern and Central Regions which were at 97 and 94 percent respectively.

Table 4.7 Proportion of households with members sleeping under a bed net, Malawi 2016/17

Background Characteristics	Proportion of households with a member sleeping under a bed net during the year	Proportion of households with children under 5 who slept under a bed net during the year
Malawi	87.4	95.9
Residence		
Urban	89.9	95.9
Rural	86.8	95.8
Region		
North	91.2	97.5
Central	83.7	93.9
Southern	90.3	97.3
Sex of household head		
Male	87.2	95.8
Female	87.6	95.9
Education of woman		
None	85.8	95.6
Primary	90.4	95.6
Secondary	92.1	96.5
Tertiary	91.6	96.6
District		
Chitipa	92.7	97.2
Karonga	96.9	97.2
Nkhata Bay	86.6	95.6
Rumphi	94.7	97.4
Mzimba	87.8	99.3
Likoma	87.7	95.3
Mzuzu City	87.3	99.1
Kasungu	91.5	97.1
Nkhotakota	82.7	70.5
Ntchisi	81.6	83.5
Dowa	84.7	98.8
Salima	83.7	96.8
Lilongwe	87.0	96.7
Mchinji	82.7	93.3
Dedza	60.8	96.6
Ntcheu	85.5	97.2
Lilongwe City	88.2	92.4
Mangochi	92.6	98.6
Machinga	94.2	98.8
Zomba	94.6	97.7
Chiradzulu	90.9	97.3
Blantyre	92.2	88.4
Mwanza	80.5	96.8
Thyolo	86.9	94.2
Mulanje	83.8	98.2
Phalombe	82.4	97.2
Chikwawa	95.1	99.2
Nsanje	93.3	97.2
Balaka	89.3	97.7
Neno	71.5	94.3
Zomba City	93.5	100.0
Blantyre City	92.5	96.9

Chapter 5

CREDIT AND LOANS

5.0 Introduction

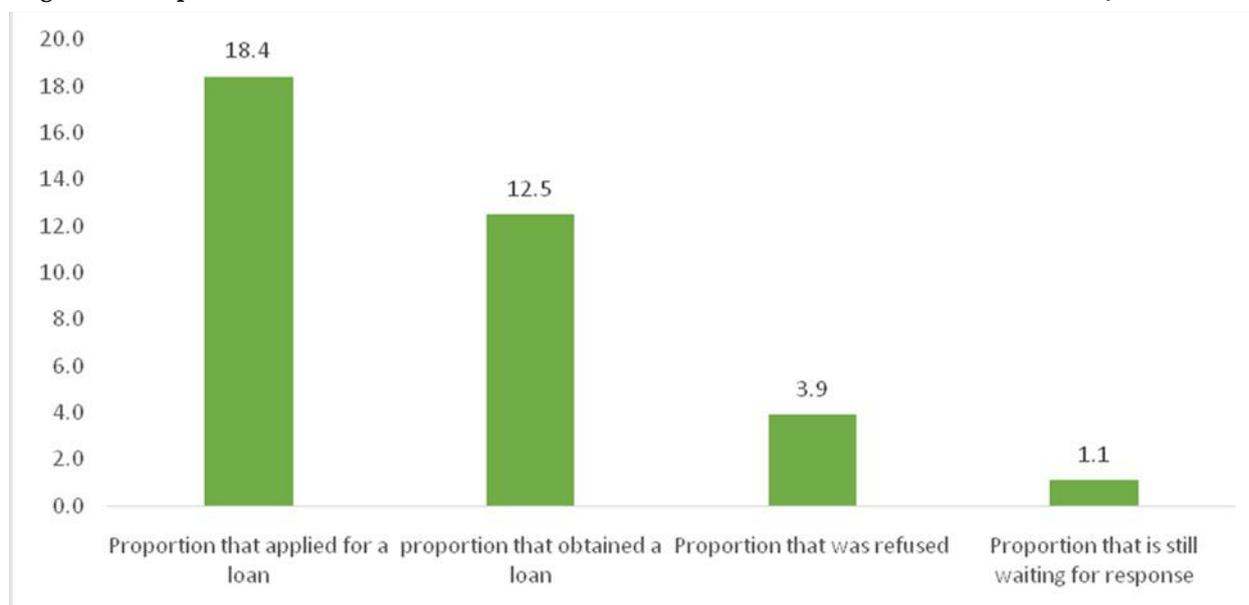
Credit is an important source of additional finance for households and the interest in understanding the characteristics of demand for credit for investment in both agricultural and non-agricultural enterprises is becoming more important for the Malawi government because of the increasing role placed on small scale economic activities as tools for poverty eradication.

The survey provides information on access to credit and loans for business or farming purposes from either formal or informal sources and on the constraints faced in accessing credit during the 12 months preceding the survey. Formal loans include money borrowed from financial institutions with interest, security and conditions for payment well-laid down while informal loans refer to borrowing from friends, relatives, private money-lenders and communal groups without any formal agreement describing the terms of payment. This chapter highlights the proportion of persons who had access to loans and credit, the reasons for obtaining loans, the sources of loan and finally insights into the reasons for not borrowing.

5.1 Proportion of households that had some interaction with the credit market

The results from IHS4 reveal that in Malawi about 18 percent of the households had some interaction with the credit market, 13 percent of whom successfully obtained at least a loan, 4 percent of the households tried to get a loan in the last 12 months prior to the survey but were turned down and about 1 percent were still waiting for a response on their loan applications (Figure 5.1).

Figure 5.1 Proportion of households that had some interaction with the credit market, Malawi 2016/17



5.2 Proportion of households that obtained loans

The results from the survey indicate that in Malawi about 13 percent of the households, at least one member obtained credit or loan for business or farming purpose in the 12 months prior to the survey. As Table 5.1 suggest, the extent of indebtedness, as measured by the proportion of loan recipients, was higher in urban areas (18 percent) than in rural areas (12 percent). In terms of gender, there is a significant difference between borrowers in male-headed households (14 percent) and female-headed households (10 percent).

Analysis by region shows that the highest proportion of persons who accessed loans is observed in the Northern Region at 15 percent, followed by the Central and Southern Regions at about 14 percent and 11 percent respectively. At district level, indebtedness is lowest in Mangochi, registering about 4 percent. Contrary to this, districts with the highest proportions of loan beneficiaries include Likoma Island (28 percent), Nkhotakota (21 percent) and Zomba City (20 percent).

5.3 Purpose of loan

Demand for credit for agricultural or non-agricultural income generating activities is driven by a number of factors. Table 5.1 shows that the most common reason for obtaining loans is to finance start-up costs of businesses. This was reported by 53 percent of the respondents. Purchasing agricultural inputs for food crops was the second main reason given for

obtaining loans. This was reported by 26 percent of the respondents. Other reasons include purchasing inputs for other cash crops (8 percent), purchase non-farm inputs (6 percent) and purchasing inputs for tobacco farming (3 percent). The proportion of persons reporting land purchase as the main reason for obtaining a loan is substantially low at slightly over 1 percent.

A higher percentage of loan beneficiaries in urban areas (74 percent) reported to have accessed loans to set up business ventures compared to their rural counterparts (48 percent). As table 5.1 suggests, the proportions of households who obtained loans mainly for agricultural related purposes is substantially higher in the rural than in urban areas. This can be shown by the higher proportions of households who obtained the loans to purchase agricultural inputs for food crops at 31 percent in rural as compared to only 8 percent in urban.

When analysing by sex the gender of the household head, female-headed households are more likely to borrow business start-up capital (64 percent) than male-headed households (50 percent). Some regional variations are observed in the data; Northern Region has the highest proportion of persons who obtained credit to finance business startup (58 percent) followed by the Southern Region (56 percent) and Central Region is the lowest at 50 percent. Further analysis reveals that about 10 percent of loan beneficiaries in the Central Region used it to purchase farm inputs for other cash crops compared to under 10 percent in both the Central and Northern Regions.

Analysis by district excluding cities shows that Ntcheu reported the highest proportion of loan recipients who accessed credit to startup businesses (74 percent) followed by Karonga (71percent) and Nsanje (70 percent).

Table 5. 1 Proportion of households where at least one member obtained a loan and reasons for obtaining the loan by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Proportion that borrowed	Business start-up	Food crops	Other cash crops	Purchase non farm inputs	Tobacco	Purchase land	Other	Total
Malawi	12.5	53.2	26.2	7.9	6.2	3.2	1.4	1.8	100.0
Place of residence									
Urban	17.5	73.7	8.2	1.4	12.5	0.0	3.2	1.1	100.0
Rural	11.6	48.4	30.6	9.5	4.6	4.0	1.0	1.9	100.0
Sex of household head									
Male	13.5	50.4	28.2	7.7	6.3	3.6	1.8	1.9	100.0
Female	10.0	64.0	18.7	8.4	5.5	1.8	0.0	1.7	100.0
Marital Status									
Married	10.9	48.8	4.7	24.0	20.4	0.0	1.0	1.1	100.0
Separated, divorced	13.6	51.4	27.1	7.9	6.2	3.6	1.8	1.9	100.0
Widow or widower	11.4	61.6	25.7	9.1	1.9	0.7	0.0	1.0	100.0
Never married	8.0	62.0	19.5	2.6	10.1	3.1	0.0	2.6	100.0
Region									
North	15.4	58.1	15.1	9.3	8.9	4.2	2.1	2.2	100.0
Central	13.6	49.7	25.6	10.1	7.2	4.7	1.2	1.5	100.0
South	10.9	56.2	29.9	4.8	4.2	1.2	1.5	2.2	100.0
District									
Chitipa	5.4	63.2	23.9	9.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	100.0
Karonga	8.5	70.5	0.0	5.4	1.7	0.0	17.9	4.5	100.0
Nkhata Bay	19.0	62.2	17.9	10.3	6.1	0.5	3.1	0.0	100.0
Rumphi	18.4	36.6	20.0	20.3	6.0	15.8	0.0	1.3	100.0
Mzimba	16.7	49.9	23.2	10.2	6.8	5.5	0.0	4.3	100.0
Mzuzu City	19.8	90.7	0.0	0.0	4.3	0.0	5.0	0.0	100.0
Likoma	28.2	69.6	7.7	0.8	18.8	0.0	0.0	3.1	100.0
Kasungu	12.8	33.2	19.0	20.8	8.1	12.1	2.1	4.9	100.0
Nkhotakota	20.6	37.9	32.4	15.1	8.6	0.0	5.8	0.3	100.0
Ntchisi	15.1	30.7	40.7	11.0	4.5	9.5	1.6	1.9	100.0
Dowa	17.8	30.2	45.9	9.6	0.3	14.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Salima	12.8	58.3	27.7	1.7	10.4	0.0	0.0	1.7	100.0
Lilongwe	12.4	55.8	20.4	13.5	4.1	3.5	1.4	1.4	100.0
Mchinji	11.1	39.1	35.2	10.8	6.9	0.0	1.8	6.3	100.0
Dedza	7.5	69.7	19.3	11.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Ntcheu	9.1	74.3	18.3	4.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Lilongwe City	18.8	69.2	11.0	2.5	16.9	0.0	0.3	0.0	100.0
Mangochi	4.3	59.0	25.2	8.3	0.0	7.5	0.0	0.0	100.0
Machinga	10.6	52.3	40.7	3.5	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Zomba	17.1	60.7	22.8	7.4	8.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	100.0
Chiradzulu	10.0	23.9	59.4	2.0	5.3	3.9	0.0	5.6	100.0
Blantyre	15.6	63.5	33.1	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	1.6	100.0
Mwanza	10.5	59.5	29.1	5.5	5.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Thyolo	10.8	34.8	40.2	8.4	7.2	0.0	0.6	8.8	100.0
Mulanje	10.0	74.2	19.1	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Phalombe	7.9	59.1	27.4	0.0	1.8	5.3	0.0	6.4	100.0
Chikwawa	13.1	48.3	35.3	15.9	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Nsanje	13.2	55.1	34.3	7.4	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.6	100.0
Balaka	9.5	59.4	25.6	10.3	4.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Neno	16.6	44.4	41.7	0.5	12.8	0.0	0.6	0.0	100.0
Zomba City	20.0	63.0	11.4	0.0	13.7	0.0	4.0	8.0	100.0
Blantyre City	13.3	86.8	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.4	0.0	100.0

5.4 Sources of loan

Individuals who reported to have obtained a loan were further asked about the source of the loan. Table 5.2 shows that the highest proportion of loan recipients (38 percent) sought credit from Village Banks. The second notable source of borrowing is from Neighbours and Relatives (15 percent). About 7 percent borrowed from money lenders/katapila. The least reported source of loan is from faith based organizations, with less than one percent of the loans coming from this source.

Across urban and rural areas, loans coming from Village Banks are slightly higher in rural areas (39 percent) relative to urban areas (35 percent). Relatives are more relied upon as a source of credit in rural areas (17 percent) than in urban areas (9 percent). This is unlike the trend in urban areas where most of the households depend on neighbours for loans (19 percent) than in rural areas (14 percent). Money lenders/katapila retain a strong presence in rural areas (8 percent) compared to urban areas (4 percent). A substantially higher proportion of borrowers from commercial banks are observed in urban areas (7 percent) as opposed to rural areas (4 percent).

Sizeable differences emerge across sex of the household head. Persons in female-headed households are slightly more likely to borrow from village banks (39 percent) than their counterparts in male-headed households (37 percent).

In terms of regions, the Northern Region has the lowest proportion of persons who got loans from village banks at 34 percent. The corresponding figure in the Southern Region is 38 percent and 39 percent in the Central Region. There are substantial differences between the districts as far as reliance on village banks for credit is concerned. Highest proportions were in Nsanje district (70 percent) followed by Balaka district (66 percent) and Lilongwe (50 percent). Although Mangochi district reported lowest proportion on any borrowers from village banks at 5 percent, it recorded a highest percentage of households who got credit from neighbors (38 percent).

Table 5.2 Percentage distribution of sources of loans by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Village Bank	Neighbour	Relative	Money lender/Katapila	NGO	SACCO	Bank Commercial	MRFC	Grocery/Local merchant	Employer	MARDEF	Religious institutions	Other	Total
Malawi	38.1	15.2	15.0	6.9	6.2	3.9	3.3	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.5	7.0	100.0
Place of residence														
Urban	35.4	19.2	8.7	4.4	7.5	5.0	7.2	0.5	0.4	3.6	0.0	0.6	7.3	100.0
Rural	38.7	14.2	16.6	7.6	5.9	3.6	2.3	1.3	1.1	0.4	0.9	0.4	7.0	100.0
Sex of household head														
Male	37.4	14.9	15.6	7.3	6.2	3.9	3.4	1.1	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.4	7.1	100.0
Female	38.6	15.5	14.3	6.6	6.2	3.9	3.3	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.6	0.5	7.0	100.0
Marital Status														
Married	24.3	46.3	7.1	0.7	6.2	3.9	3.3	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0	100.0
Separated, divorced	38.1	14.0	15.2	6.8	6.5	4.3	3.6	0.9	0.8	1.2	0.9	0.4	7.2	100.0
Widow or widower	37.3	23.9	15.9	7.3	3.2	2.7	1.7	0.1	3.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	4.5	100.0
Never married	41.6	10.9	12.4	9.1	8.2	0.7	2.5	4.8	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.7	7.9	100.0
Region														
North	33.6	10.9	8.6	12.1	10.9	3.7	6.9	1.1	1.5	1.8	0.4	1.4	7.2	100.0
Central	39.3	17.2	16.5	6.2	5.0	2.3	3.3	1.0	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.1	6.7	100.0
South	37.9	14.1	15.1	6.2	6.1	6.0	2.3	1.2	1.4	0.8	0.6	0.7	7.4	100.0
District														
Chitipa	19.3	12.6	8.5	18.4	7.6	6.6	10.1	0.0	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.6	100.0
Karonga	32.7	18.1	3.5	7.6	0.0	5.9	4.1	4.4	2.6	6.6	0.0	0.0	14.4	100.0
Nkhata Bay	37.9	8.1	12.9	19.8	3.5	3.8	3.8	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	100.0
Rumphi	30.6	7.3	10.1	22.5	12.6	0.0	8.4	1.3	1.7	0.6	2.2	0.0	2.8	100.0
Mzimba	27.8	16.8	13.8	2.1	22.5	7.6	1.1	0.0	1.1	0.2	0.0	2.4	4.6	100.0
Mzuzu City	49.0	12.6	13.0	19.5	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	0.0	0.0	1.7	100.0
Likoma	38.2	8.7	3.1	5.2	15.5	2.2	12.5	1.5	1.6	1.5	0.0	3.8	6.4	100.0
Kasungu	30.6	9.6	16.8	0.0	11.7	3.2	2.1	2.4	3.3	1.8	0.0	0.0	18.5	100.0
Nkhotakota	38.7	3.1	16.3	14.3	13.6	0.5	4.9	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.9	6.7	100.0
Ntchisi	18.1	23.0	24.4	8.3	11.2	0.0	9.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	4.6	100.0
Dowa	43.0	25.5	16.0	5.3	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	100.0
Salima	41.9	10.4	20.5	10.6	0.4	0.0	0.8	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	100.0
Lilongwe	57.7	10.3	14.0	7.1	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7	100.0
Mchinji	29.0	31.5	25.7	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.9	0.0	0.0	100.0
Dedza	26.3	19.7	31.2	4.3	0.0	4.8	0.0	5.8	2.7	0.0	5.2	0.0	0.0	100.0

Table 5.2 continued

Background characteristics	Village Bank	Neighbour	Relative	Money lender/Katapila	NGO	SACCO	Bank Commercial	MRFC	Grocery/Local merchant	Employer	MARDEF	Religious institutions	Other	Total
Ntcheu	35.5	24.9	16.2	7.4	0.0	0.0	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.1	100.0
Lilongwe City	38.0	19.9	8.2	4.7	3.8	7.1	8.3	0.6	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	5.5	100.0
Mangochi	4.9	38.2	31.1	6.7	9.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	100.0
Machinga	25.3	17.0	18.1	10.3	12.0	0.0	4.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	9.1	100.0
Zomba	41.8	16.4	25.9	3.1	3.4	1.4	0.8	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.7	100.0
Chiradzulu	48.7	11.2	12.5	0.0	4.3	12.0	0.0	3.6	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	4.9	100.0
Blantyre	43.7	5.9	15.6	1.1	5.6	5.3	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	2.7	12.8	100.0
Mwanza	44.9	14.5	8.7	0.5	0.0	0.0	3.9	4.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.8	100.0
Thyolo	36.1	2.6	14.0	12.3	2.4	15.9	0.0	3.5	5.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	100.0
Mulanje	40.6	4.7	19.2	2.0	5.2	19.5	0.0	1.4	1.9	0.0	0.0	1.9	3.4	100.0
Phalombe	40.0	12.6	11.1	11.2	0.0	10.6	0.0	0.0	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	100.0
Chikwawa	37.7	10.6	9.9	19.0	6.4	2.1	4.2	3.0	0.8	0.0	3.0	0.0	3.3	100.0
Nsanje	69.6	9.3	6.7	5.1	0.0	0.4	5.3	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	100.0
Balaka	65.9	3.8	8.5	0.9	6.1	0.0	1.1	0.0	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	100.0
Neno	33.4	16.7	13.7	6.4	10.9	5.8	1.9	1.5	0.0	0.0	3.0	2.3	4.4	100.0
Zomba City	35.5	22.4	8.0	1.1	11.6	4.8	7.1	0.2	2.5	3.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	100.0
Blantyre City	29.7	23.0	12.6	4.3	8.2	3.2	2.6	0.0	0.0	4.6	0.0	0.0	11.7	100.0

5.5 Reasons for not applying for a loan

In addition to the detailed information collected on loan recipients, the survey also investigated the reasons that some people never attempted to get a loan. Table 5.3 shows the percentage distribution of reasons for never attempting to apply for a loan. Among households that had no interaction at all with the credit market, no use for credit is the most frequently cited reason barring them from borrowing (29 percent) while a significant proportion (18 percent) also indicates did not apply for any loan because they feel the trouble they could go through to get a loan is not worth it.

Furthermore, when asked why some households never tried to get any loan, a sizable proportion of households cited fear of indebtedness also hampered the ability for them to borrow. This is reflected by about 15 percent of the non-recipients. A significant proportion (11 percent) reported high interest rates as reason for not applying for credit. Another 11 percent did not apply for any loan because of inadequate collateral. The feeling that one would be refused a loan also hinders the ability for one to borrow by about eight percent. Slightly over 7 percent of the non-recipients reported that they did not apply for loans since they did not know any lender.

Looking at the highest reported reason for not applying for a loan across socio-economic background, Table 5.3 suggests that more urban population have no use for credit (51 percent) than the rural population (26 percent). Across gender of the household head, 31 percent of the non-recipients from male-headed households reported that they did not need loans as the main reason for not obtaining a loan. Marginally different from this, 26 percent of non-recipients from female-headed households also reported no need for loans as the main reason that they did not apply for a loan.

Across the regions of the country, the Southern Region has the highest proportion of non-loan recipients who reported that they do not need any loan (36 percent) while the Northern Region comes second (24 percent) and finally the Central Region (23 percent). Across districts, Blantyre City has the highest proportion (66 percent) of non-loan recipients who did not obtain a loan because they did not need the loan. This is followed by Likoma Island and Zomba City at 57 and 53 percent respectively. On the other hand, Chitipa and Karonga had the least proportion of non-loan recipients reporting not in need of credits both at less than 12 percent.

Table 5.3 Proportion of persons who never applied for a loan and reason for not applying for a loan by background characteristics, Malawi, 2016/17

Background characteristics	Proportion that never applied for a loan	No need	Too much trouble for whats its worth	Do not like to be in debt	Too expensive	Inadequate collateral	Believed would be refused	Do not know any lender	Other	Total
Malawi	81.6	29.4	18.2	14.9	10.9	10.5	8.4	7.2	0.6	100
Place of residence										
Urban	78.8	51.2	16.6	10.8	7.3	5.2	4.0	4.3	0.6	100
Rural	82.1	25.9	18.4	15.6	11.5	11.3	9.1	7.6	0.6	100
Sex of household head										
Male	80.6	30.7	17.5	14.9	10.4	10	8.3	7.7	0.6	100
Female	84	26.4	19.8	15	12.2	11.6	8.5	6	0.5	100
Marital Status										
Married	82.6	46.2	11.9	15.3	7.2	8.6	5.1	5.5	0.4	100
Separated, divorced	80.6	29.2	18	15.1	11	10	8.4	7.7	0.6	100
Widow or widower	81.5	29	18.6	14.3	10.4	13.6	7.2	6.5	0.5	100
Never married	86.9	26.8	19.8	14.4	12.1	10.5	10.1	5.5	0.8	100
Region										
North	80.8	24.2	18.8	23.1	14.5	7.6	8.3	2.4	1	100
Central	78.6	23	20.6	17.4	8.5	8.5	10.6	10.8	0.7	100
South	84.6	35.7	16	11.3	12.4	12.7	6.5	4.9	0.4	100
District										
Chitipa	89.4	11.6	19.5	37	12.4	5.9	8	4.4	1.2	100
Karonga	84.9	11.8	17.6	39.7	18	4.5	7.3	0.3	0.9	100
Nkhata Bay	77.1	26.6	10.5	10	26.2	15.2	6.3	4.6	0.6	100
Rumphi	82.2	16.8	14.7	17	21.9	15.8	11.7	1.7	0.4	100
Mzimba	72.7	43.5	28.5	6.8	2.1	3.2	12	2.0	2.0	100
Mzuzu City	82.2	29.8	14.2	9.1	25.3	12.8	5	3.2	0.7	100
Likoma	72.9	56.9	23.9	4.4	1	3.7	5.8	2.8	1.4	100
Kasungu	73.7	12.3	19.1	18.3	14.6	12.3	16.8	6.3	0.3	100
Nkhotakota	82.3	24.3	7.3	22.1	9.8	6.6	11	18.8	0.1	100
Ntchisi	74.4	24.9	8.3	18.3	14.0	8.6	8.7	17.3	0.0	100
Dowa	77.5	19.4	23.9	16.8	14.4	8.7	9.3	7.1	0.4	100
Salima	84.2	22.1	20.2	22.6	3.6	8.1	9.6	13.4	0.4	100
Lilongwe	78.7	28.1	20.0	17.6	4.4	11	6.8	10.3	1.8	100
Mchinji	69.1	32.1	23.0	6.1	5.7	16.8	8.1	8.3	0.0	100
Dedza	80.9	14.2	23.7	17.5	8.3	4.3	18.1	12.8	1.1	100
Ntcheu	88.9	14.8	26.8	12.9	9.7	3.1	15.5	17	0.2	100
Lilongwe City	78	34.3	19.4	21.7	6.5	6.1	4.8	7.0	0.2	100
Mangochi	88.9	39.3	4.4	12	22.3	8.6	7.9	5.2	0.2	100
Machinga	75.9	16.8	22.7	5.7	26.6	13.5	8.5	6.1	0.0	100
Zomba	69.7	20.6	31	9.2	14.4	7.4	9.1	7.2	1.0	100
Chiradzulu	94.3	29.1	21.9	8.6	6.6	25.7	1.6	5.9	0.7	100
Blantyre	86.5	38.3	23.9	7.9	6.8	11.6	6.1	5	0.4	100
Mwanza	84.8	32.2	8.5	6.3	13.5	27.7	6.7	4.6	0.5	100
Thyolo	92.7	30	21.7	10.4	6.4	22.3	3.5	5.8	0.0	100
Mulanje	89.7	47.7	12.9	19	7.9	6.2	2.4	3.8	0.0	100
Phalombe	89.6	40	19.3	20.7	5.7	7.7	3.1	3.5	0.0	100
Chikwawa	77.3	13.1	19.7	23.8	7.3	11	18.9	5.5	0.6	100
Nsanje	77.6	13.5	15.4	28.5	6.5	10.1	18.5	6.3	1.3	100
Balaka	80.8	31.6	13.8	8	21.8	10.3	9.6	4.9	0.0	100
Neno	77.3	31.7	2.8	4.7	14.5	34.1	6.4	5.3	0.6	100
Zomba City	66.3	52.5	18.6	8.5	4.6	3	7.5	3.3	1.9	100
Blantyre City	82.4	65.9	12.4	1.9	9.3	4.9	2.6	2.2	0.8	100

Chapter 6

HOUSEHOLD ENTERPRISES

6.0 Introduction

This chapter presents detailed information on the ownership and operation of any income-generating enterprises by the survey household that were in operation over the past 12 months of the survey. Household business or enterprise is defined as an organized commercial activity or a commercial establishment, owned and managed by household members. It can be informal without hired labour or formally registered. For instance, non-agricultural one-man operations providing goods/services for various non-household members/groups, i.e. working independently on their own-account, were classified as household enterprises.

6.1 Proportion of households operating non-farm enterprises

The survey showed that approximately 27 percent of households in Malawi operated non-farm enterprises (Table 6.1). The proportion of households engaged business operations in urban areas was twice as high as the proportion in rural areas (45 percent in urban and 23 percent in rural areas).

The proportion of households operating non-farm enterprises ranged from 26 percent in the Southern Region to 32 percent in the Northern Region. Noticeable differences were seen when considering sex of the household head. Male-headed households were more likely to operate non-farm enterprises (30 percent) than female-headed households (21 percent).

The proportion of households operating a non-farm enterprise increased by education level of the household head from 23 percent (with no education) to 39 percent (with Secondary education). Analysis of the four cities indicated Mzuzu city had the highest proportion at 57 percent, Zomba city had 52 percent, Lilongwe city had 50 percent, and

Blantyre city was lowest at 38 percent. In non-city districts, Mangochi had the lowest proportion of non-farm enterprises (11 percent).

Table 6.1 Proportion and distribution of households that operated non- farm enterprises by industry according to background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Proportion of households that operated non-agricultural enterprises	Industry						
		Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing	Construction	Wholesale and retail trade; Accommodation and food service activities	Transportation and storage; Information and communication	Real estate, Professional activities, Education and Health	Other service activities
Malawi	26.9	0.2	16.3	1.1	72.4	4.2	0.8	4.9
Place of residence								
Urban	44.9	0.2	11.0	0.6	75.3	4.3	1.2	7.4
Rural	22.5	0.2	18.9	1.4	71.0	4.2	0.6	3.7
Region								
North	31.6	0.3	11.4	0.6	78.7	4.8	0.5	3.8
Centre	26.9	0.2	15.4	0.5	75.1	3.8	0.9	4.1
South	25.9	0.2	18.4	2.0	68.2	4.6	0.8	6.0
Sex of head								
Male	29.3	0.1	14.8	1.5	71.7	5.2	0.9	5.8
Female	20.7	0.5	21.5	0.0	74.9	0.9	0.4	1.8
Age of household head								
Up to 24	23.5	0.0	9.8	1.3	75.8	7.1	0.4	5.6
25-34	31.9	0.3	14.2	1.4	73.2	5.5	0.2	5.3
35-49	31.4	0.1	16.6	1.3	72.9	3.6	0.4	5.1
50-64	22.7	0.3	20.9	0.6	69.1	2.8	2.9	3.4
65+	13.0	0.0	22.9	0.0	68.4	1.9	2.3	4.5
Education level of household head								
None	23.3	0.2	16.9	1.3	72.0	4.3	0.7	4.5
Primary	35.9	0.0	12.6	0.2	72.8	6.0	1.9	6.4
Secondary	38.9	0.0	15.3	0.3	75.1	2.8	0.0	6.4
Tertiary	32.5	0.0	9.2	0.1	73.7	4.0	4.3	8.7
Marital status of head								
Married	20.1	0.0	7.6	3.9	78.8	5.6	0.8	3.3
Separated, divorced	30.0	0.1	15.5	1.3	71.8	4.8	0.8	5.6
Widow or widower	21.7	0.7	23.0	0.0	72.6	1.0	0.2	2.6
Never married	16.4	0.4	18.3	0.3	76.1	2.2	1.4	1.3
District								
Chitipa	23.5	0.0	15.6	0.0	80.5	1.4	0.0	2.5
Karonga	35.1	0.0	9.0	1.8	77.3	8.3	0.0	3.6
Nkhata Bay	21.4	0.0	14.4	0.0	84.1	0.0	0.0	1.5
Rumphi	22.3	0.0	25.3	1.2	62.9	9.4	0.0	1.1
Mzimba	23.1	0.0	14.3	0.0	79.5	2.6	0.0	3.6
Likoma	21.6	0.0	25.2	0.0	72.4	0.0	2.4	0.0
Mzuzu City	58.6	0.8	5.3	0.0	82.2	4.0	1.6	6.1
Kasungu	23.7	0.0	18.7	0.0	75.0	1.8	0.0	4.5
Nkhotakota	20.1	1.5	17.3	0.0	75.2	4.6	0.0	1.3
Ntchisi	16.2	1.0	23.6	0.0	58.9	7.5	3.8	5.2
Dowa	26.9	0.0	11.3	2.5	73.8	8.7	0.0	3.6

Table 6.1 continued

Background characteristics	Proportion of households that operated non-agricultural enterprises	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing	Construction	Wholesale and retail trade; Accommodation and food service activities	Transportation and storage; Information and communication	Real estate, Professional activities, Education and Health	Other service activities
Salima	19.0	0.0	13.8	0.0	60.6	16.1	1.0	8.6
Lilongwe	26.6	0.5	16.4	0.0	80.1	0.3	0.0	2.7
Mchinji	20.6	0.0	24.6	0.0	69.2	4.4	0.0	1.8
Dedza	16.8	0.0	23.2	0.0	75.6	0.0	1.3	0.0
Ntcheu	23.8	0.0	29.0	1.1	62.8	1.1	0.0	6.0
Lilongwe City	49.8	0.0	7.0	0.4	80.2	4.2	2.4	5.9
Mangochi	10.6	0.0	26.1	0.0	68.4	1.0	0.0	4.6
Machinga	21.6	0.0	25.3	1.8	54.7	12.6	0.0	5.6
Zomba	32.4	0.0	19.4	0.9	73.0	3.2	0.0	3.4
Chiradzulu	24.0	0.9	37.9	5.4	51.1	0.8	1.0	2.9
Blantyre	24.9	2.0	20.7	0.0	66.9	3.0	0.0	7.4
Mwanza	29.4	0.0	17.8	0.0	73.5	5.7	2.1	0.9
Thyolo	19.2	0.0	22.1	0.0	62.7	4.0	6.9	4.2
Mulanje	35.2	0.0	5.6	4.5	81.8	5.7	0.0	2.6
Phalombe	23.1	0.0	6.4	9.2	67.3	6.6	0.0	10.4
Chikwawa	28.2	0.0	10.2	2.0	75.7	6.4	0.0	5.8
Nsanje	31.4	0.0	10.5	0.9	79.9	2.4	0.0	6.4
Balaka	21.4	0.0	25.4	0.0	62.3	8.7	0.9	2.6
Neno	35.2	0.0	13.0	0.0	77.8	3.9	1.1	4.2
Zomba City	52.1	0.0	15.6	0.7	72.7	6.1	0.7	4.2
Blantyre City	38.0	0.0	16.8	1.0	66.9	3.2	0.3	11.8

6.2 Distribution of enterprises by industrial classification

Survey results indicated that 72 percent of non-agricultural enterprises are engaged in wholesale, retail trade, accommodation and food services followed by manufacturing at 16 percent. Other services and transport/communication accounted for close to 5 percent each. Mining, construction and real estate had the lowest share (Figure 6.1).

Figure 6.1 Industry classification of household non-farm enterprises

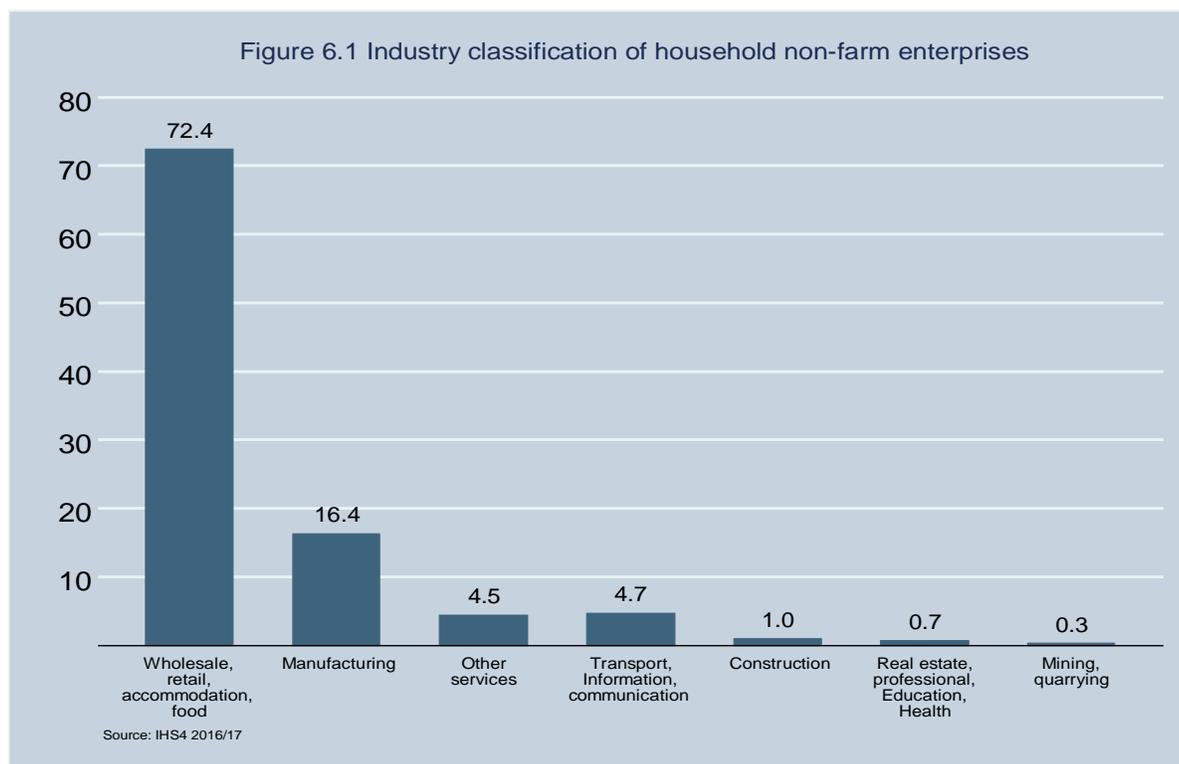


Table 6.1 further shows that percentage of trading activities was higher in urban areas (75 percent) than in rural areas (71 percent), but manufacturing was more common in rural areas (19 percent) than in urban areas (11 percent). Other service activities were more common in urban areas (7 percent) than in rural areas (4 percent). The difference between urban and rural areas with regards to mining and quarrying activities was less than 1 percent.

In terms of sex of the household head, a greater proportion of wholesale, retail, accommodation and food services were operated by female-headed households (75 percent) as opposed to 72 percent in male-headed households. Female-headed households also dominated the manufacturing sector, recording about 22 percent compared to male-headed households (15 percent).

In households whose heads were aged 24 or less, 76 percent of the businesses were in trade and 10 percent were manufacturing. In households whose heads were aged 35-49 years, 73

percent were in the trading business and 17 percent were in manufacturing. Among households whose heads had no education, 17 percent were involved in manufacturing while among households whose heads had tertiary education, 9 percent were involved operated a manufacturing businesses.

Table 6.2 Proportion of non- farm enterprises owned by sole proprietors by industry according to background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Proportion of non- farm enterprises owned by sole proprietors
Malawi	89.8
Place of residence	
Urban	92.0
Rural	88.7
Region	
North	81.3
Centre	90.2
South	91.5
Sex of head	
Male	87.5
Female	98.0
Age of household head	
Up to 24	93.2
25-34	89.5
35-49	88.8
50-64	91.5
65+	88.9
Education level of household head	
None	90.1
Primary	87.2
Secondary	88.6
Tertiary	91.5
Marital status of head	
Married	99.3
Separated, divorced	87.7
Widow or widower	97.7
Never married	97.8
District	

Table 6.2 continued

Background characteristics	Proportion of non- farm enterprises owned by sole proprietors
Chitipa	79.8
Karonga	84.6
Nkhata Bay	80.8
Rumphi	88.6
Mzimba	80.9
Likoma	93.6
Mzuzu City	76.9
Kasungu	91.1
Nkhotakota	79.6
Ntchisi	81.7
Dowa	88.8
Salima	90.9
Lilongwe	86.5
Mchinji	90.6
Dedza	91.7
Ntcheu	94.1
Lilongwe City	93.7
Mangochi	98.4
Machinga	86.1
Zomba	86.6
Chiradzulu	92.5
Blantyre	95.1
Mwanza	88.1
Thyolo	94.6
Mulanje	94.3
Phalombe	93.8
Chikwawa	87.4
Nsanje	79.4
Balaka	91.1
Neno	74.3
Zomba City	91.7
Blantyre City	95.6

6.3 Ownership structure of enterprises

Information on the ownership status of the household enterprises was collected. The survey results presented in Table 6.2 show that almost 90 percent of the enterprises were owned by a sole proprietor and 10 percent were partnerships. Sole proprietorship was higher in urban areas (92 percent) than in rural areas (89 percent).

Across regions, Southern Region had the highest proportion of sole proprietorship compared to Northern (81 percent) and Central Regions (90 percent).

Ninety-eight percent of the household enterprises in female-headed households were sole proprietorship while in male-headed households, 88 percent were sole proprietorship. The proportions of non-farm enterprises owned by sole proprietors were less in households whose heads had either primary (87 percent) or secondary education (89 percent) than in households whose head had either tertiary (92 percent) or no education (90 percent).

Table 6.3 Percentage distribution of no- farm enterprises by sort of start-up capital by background characteristics

Background characteristics	Source of start-up capital												
	Own-savings from agriculture	Own-savings from non-agriculture	Sale of assets owned	Proceeds from another business	Agricultural input credit	Non-agricultural credit from bank or other institution	Loan from money lender	Loan from family/friends	Savings club	Gift from family/friends	Inherited	Other	Total
Malawi	27.9	24.9	2.1	5.5	0.3	1.1	5.4	6.5	2.5	17.0	1.2	5.6	100.0
Place of residence													
Urban	8.6	34.4	2.1	8.8	0.1	1.0	6.2	5.0	1.8	27.0	1.7	3.4	100.0
Rural	38.2	19.9	2.0	3.7	0.4	1.1	5.1	7.4	2.8	11.8	1.0	6.7	100.0
Region													
North	29.0	22.8	0.8	5.0	0.1	1.4	6.2	6.4	3.6	20.3	1.0	3.4	100.0
Centre	29.4	25.8	2.5	4.8	0.6	1.1	4.6	5.7	2.8	15.4	0.9	6.5	100.0
South	26.1	24.5	1.9	6.4	0.1	0.9	6.1	7.5	1.8	18.0	1.6	5.2	100.0
Sex of head													
Male	29.6	25.2	2.1	5.8	0.4	1.2	4.6	6.0	2.1	16.5	1.2	5.6	100.0
Female	22.1	23.8	1.8	4.5	0.1	0.8	8.5	8.6	3.7	19.1	1.3	5.6	100.0
Age of household head													
Up to 24	24.8	24.2	1.1	4.4	0.7	0.2	3.7	10.2	2.4	20.5	0.9	6.7	100.0
25-34	28.0	24.6	2.3	5.5	0.1	1.0	4.1	6.6	1.5	19.9	1.1	5.3	100.0
35-49	27.2	26.3	2.1	6.0	0.3	1.4	6.7	5.8	3.3	14.3	1.3	5.5	100.0
50-64	31.8	22.7	2.0	4.2	0.2	1.1	6.0	5.7	2.1	16.6	1.8	5.9	100.0
65+	27.6	22.8	2.0	7.2	1.2	1.1	5.3	8.4	3.1	16.1	0.0	5.1	100.0
Education level of household head													
None	30.8	23.6	2.1	5.2	0.3	1.2	5.7	6.7	2.5	15.0	1.0	5.8	100.0
Primary	30.1	22.2	0.7	4.7	0.2	0.5	2.3	6.1	5.1	22.5	2.0	3.5	100.0
Secondary	10.7	29.4	1.9	7.5	0.3	0.8	5.1	5.6	1.4	30.8	2.7	3.6	100.0
Tertiary	6.2	49.0	3.1	6.8	0.0	0.4	5.4	5.2	0.0	13.5	0.4	9.8	100.0
Marital status of head													
Married	17.5	34.4	0.3	13.5	2.7	0.4	0.0	6.4	0.0	17.3	3.5	4.1	100.0
Separated, divorced	29.9	24.4	2.1	5.4	0.3	1.0	4.7	6.2	2.0	17.4	1.0	5.5	100.0
Widow or widower	21.9	25.1	2.7	4.3	0.1	2.1	8.6	8.9	6.7	12.2	1.7	5.7	100.0
Never married	18.6	27.2	1.8	5.2	0.0	0.2	10.0	6.9	2.0	20.3	1.7	6.2	100.0

Table 6.3 continued

Background characteristics	Own-savings from agriculture	Own-savings from non-agriculture	Sale of assets owned	Proceeds from another business	Agricultural input credit	Non-agricultural credit from bank or other institution	Loan from money lender	Loan from family/friends	Savings club	Gift from family/friends	Inherited	Other	Total
District													
Chitipa	51.1	13.6	0.0	2.6	0.0	0.0	4.4	7.5	0.0	18.1	0.0	2.6	100.0
Karonga	40.8	12.6	0.0	6.8	0.0	0.0	1.7	4.4	4.3	24.9	0.0	4.5	100.0
Nkhata Bay	27.2	18.0	0.0	5.3	0.0	1.9	9.6	9.3	4.2	21.0	0.0	3.4	100.0
Rumphi	38.8	18.1	0.9	4.5	0.0	1.1	10.3	1.4	3.3	18.3	2.2	1.1	100.0
Mzimba	31.1	25.3	1.7	1.2	0.0	4.5	6.8	12.4	3.9	10.9	0.0	2.2	100.0
Likoma	2.3	29.5	2.3	7.5	0.0	1.9	1.9	17.1	1.9	31.7	2.0	1.8	100.0
Mzuzu City	10.2	35.1	1.7	5.8	0.3	1.7	7.8	5.9	4.0	21.2	2.3	4.1	100.0
Kasungu	37.5	16.7	1.1	4.3	0.9	2.1	2.5	6.6	3.0	15.5	0.0	9.8	100.0
Nkhota kota	23.9	7.2	0.0	15.3	0.0	1.8	3.1	5.4	9.8	19.1	1.2	13.3	100.0
Ntchisi	55.3	10.1	1.3	4.6	0.0	0.0	3.4	2.8	6.9	4.2	2.9	8.4	100.0
Dowa	45.1	15.1	2.2	2.5	0.0	0.0	5.7	7.7	0.0	12.0	0.7	9.0	100.0
Salima	28.7	33.4	3.3	3.2	0.0	1.0	1.5	7.0	0.0	4.6	4.1	13.2	100.0
Lilongwe	36.5	24.1	3.6	4.6	0.6	1.1	6.3	7.4	5.8	5.4	0.0	4.6	100.0
Mchinji	44.3	27.5	2.9	2.4	0.0	1.0	4.1	4.3	4.4	6.9	1.0	1.3	100.0
Dedza	40.5	24.9	0.0	3.3	4.4	1.7	1.4	7.2	0.0	4.9	0.0	11.5	100.0
Ntcheu	33.8	17.9	1.7	2.0	0.0	0.0	5.2	2.4	1.2	14.0	3.4	18.4	100.0
Lilongwe City	7.7	38.2	3.2	6.4	0.2	1.6	4.8	4.2	1.6	30.2	0.9	1.1	100.0
Mangochi	46.7	8.1	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	11.4	2.8	17.2	2.7	5.8	100.0
Machinga	40.1	25.8	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	5.4	6.6	1.1	12.7	1.2	4.1	100.0
Zomba	34.5	20.5	2.6	7.3	0.0	3.4	1.6	12.3	1.2	12.3	0.0	4.3	100.0
Chiradzulu	43.1	19.9	0.0	2.4	0.0	1.0	3.4	6.0	2.1	8.1	1.2	12.7	100.0
Blantyre	22.9	22.6	3.6	7.8	0.0	1.3	7.6	11.5	1.6	19.9	0.0	1.1	100.0
Mwanza	35.8	21.5	2.3	6.0	0.0	0.0	4.1	11.5	0.0	10.4	0.0	8.4	100.0
Thyolo	35.7	28.1	1.3	2.7	0.0	0.0	3.9	5.0	3.5	12.8	3.0	4.0	100.0
Mulanje	17.9	18.0	3.3	4.6	0.0	2.6	9.6	6.8	1.6	28.3	0.0	7.4	100.0
Phalombe	39.2	21.1	2.1	2.8	0.0	1.6	8.5	6.3	1.6	15.0	1.8	0.0	100.0
Chikwawa	39.3	12.5	1.2	8.7	0.7	1.7	4.2	12.4	2.7	14.3	1.2	1.0	100.0
Nsanje	26.7	19.9	2.3	9.6	0.0	1.2	13.6	9.4	1.2	12.7	2.2	1.3	100.0
Balaka	25.1	24.9	5.3	0.7	0.0	1.2	10.9	5.9	0.7	14.3	0.0	11.2	100.0
Neno	23.9	32.1	1.9	1.1	0.0	0.0	7.0	9.2	1.2	8.0	0.0	15.6	100.0
Zomba City	10.6	32.3	3.8	8.9	0.0	0.5	1.9	8.9	3.1	21.4	0.5	8.0	100.0
Blantyre City	2.2	37.5	0.9	13.3	0.0	0.0	7.8	4.0	1.5	27.2	3.5	2.2	100.0

6.4 Source of start-up capital

The survey explored sources of start-up capital for household non-farm enterprises. Table 6.3 presents the distribution of sources of start-up capital for enterprises. The results showed the relationship between agricultural income and non-agricultural businesses. Savings from agriculture was the main financial source for starting an enterprise (28 percent), followed by own savings from non-agricultural activities (25 percent). Seventeen percent relied on funds from gifts from family or friends to provide start-up capital for their businesses and proceeds from another business accounted for about 6 percent of sources.

Thirty-eight percent of the non-farm enterprises in rural areas sourced their start-up capital mainly from own savings from non-agricultural and nearly 20 percent of the enterprises obtained the source of start-up capital through own savings from non-agricultural activities. In urban areas, the majority of the enterprises' source of start-up capital was from own savings from non-agricultural activities (34.4 percent) and nearly 9 percent of the enterprises sourced the start-up capital from own savings from non-agricultural.

Savings from agriculture was also the main source of start-up capital of household enterprises in all regions. The proportion is higher in Central Region and Northern Region at about 29 percent and lower in the Southern Region at 26 percent.

Among male-headed households, 29 percent of the start-up capital came from own savings from agriculture and 25 percent came from own savings from non-agriculture. In female-headed households own savings from agriculture contributed 22 percent and savings from non-agriculture contributed 24 percent to the start-up capital of the businesses. It was also noticed that in male-headed households 2 percent of the start-up capital came from savings club while in female-headed households 4 percent of the start-up capital came from savings club.

6.5 Business operating premises

Households with enterprises provided information on the place of operation. The survey results showed that about 36 percent of household non-farm enterprises were being operated inside or outside the home and about 30 percent at traditional market place. Nearly 12 percent were being operated at the roadside and 14 percent were owned by mobile vendors (Table 6.4).

Table 6.4 Percentage distribution of non- farm enterprises by place of operation according to background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Place of operation								Total
	Home (inside residence)	Home (outside residence)	Industrial site	Traditional market place	Commercial area shop	Roadside	Other fixed place	Mobile	
Malawi	14	21.9	1.1	30.2	2.5	11.7	5.4	13.1	100
Place of residence									
Urban	11.6	18.6	2.3	27.8	4.9	11.1	6.7	17.1	100
Rural	15.2	23.6	0.6	31.4	1.3	12	4.7	11.2	100
Region									
North	7.7	22.7	0.9	30.2	4.4	12.9	3.7	17.4	100
Centre	16.4	23.2	0.7	26.8	1.6	10.7	6	14.7	100
South	13.2	20.6	1.5	33.7	3	12.5	5.2	10.5	100
Sex of head									
Male	13.5	22.6	1.1	29.9	2.6	11	5.4	13.8	100
Female	15.8	19.6	1.2	31.2	2.2	14.1	5.2	10.7	100
Age of household head									
Up to 24	11.1	19	1.4	34.3	3.3	12.5	3.1	15.2	100
25-34	11.2	19.4	0.8	32.4	2	14.2	5.4	14.5	100
35-49	13.3	21.8	1.2	29.3	2.7	10.6	6.5	14.6	100
50-64	20.9	27.1	0.8	28	2.7	9	3.8	7.7	100
65+	20.8	27.4	2.2	25	1.8	11.6	5.1	6.1	100
Education level of household head									
None	13.9	22.4	0.9	31.2	1.8	11.9	5.3	12.4	100
Primary	19.4	17.9	1.1	25.5	6.2	13.1	5.5	11.4	100
Secondary	12.2	22.7	1.5	28.8	2.9	10.6	6.3	15.2	100
Tertiary	12.9	12.6	6.6	13.9	13.9	5.8	3.7	30.5	100
Marital status of head									
Married	7.8	13.8	2.1	31.7	3.3	12	4.9	24.4	100
Separated, divorced	14	22.9	1	29.7	2.5	11.1	5.5	13.3	100
Widow or widower	12	16.8	2.3	34.2	3.1	13.8	5.3	12.5	100
Never married	18.9	21.5	0.3	30	1.5	15.2	4.3	8.4	100
District									
Chitipa	2.9	30.4	1.4	42.5	2.1	12.1	2.2	6.3	100
Karonga	2.6	14.2	0	33.9	7.5	19.6	3	19.3	100
Nkhata Bay	16.2	32.4	0	13.2	2.5	13.7	11.7	10.3	100
Rumphi	3.8	23	3.2	27.3	4.4	13.5	4.8	20	100
Mzimba	17.9	17.8	0	34	2.5	8.5	1.5	17.8	100
Likoma	8.5	32	2.9	22.2	2.5	7	18.9	6.1	100
Mzuzu City	8.7	25.5	1.5	27.7	3.8	8.7	2.6	21.5	100
Kasungu	14.6	34.3	0	26	3.7	8.7	2.2	10.6	100
Nkhotakota	6.7	39.2	0	23	1.4	10.4	8.8	10.4	100
Ntchisi	17	36.6	0	13.7	1.4	11.1	11.8	8.5	100

Table 6.4 continued

Background	Home (inside residence)	Home (outside residence)	Industrial site	Traditional market place	Commercial area shop	Roadside	Other fixed place	Mobile	Total
Dowa	11.1	29.1	0.6	29.3	0.7	12.8	3.7	12.7	100
Salima	7.4	15.2	0	33.4	0	18.4	10.3	15.3	100
Lilongwe	17.5	16.5	0	30	0.2	10.1	7.6	18.2	100
Mchinji	33.7	21.5	0	23.2	0	17.9	1	2.6	100
Dedza	29.7	22.2	0	36.2	0	1	3.7	7.2	100
Ntcheu	22.3	29.5	1.1	29.4	0	7.6	2.7	7.6	100
Lilongwe City	12.3	18.8	2.1	22.1	3.7	11.1	8.1	21.8	100
Mangochi	23.3	24.9	0	34.7	0	12.8	2.6	1.7	100
Machinga	7.4	21.9	0	39.2	1.1	13.9	1	15.6	100
Zomba	21.4	16.4	0	40.6	0.9	9.8	2.3	8.7	100
Chiradzulu	6.6	29.4	2.1	31	1.4	11.5	8.8	9.3	100
Blanytyre	14.1	15.4	1	41.8	5	8.8	5.3	8.7	100
Mwanza	11.9	22.8	0	26.3	1.9	18.7	5.1	13.3	100
Thyolo	14.7	20.6	0	25.8	2.4	14.6	7.7	14.1	100
Mulanje	10.4	22.5	2.8	25.7	5.4	18	4.1	11.1	100
Phalombe	17.5	19.5	0	21.7	0	21.7	5.6	14.1	100
Chikwawa	8.4	25.2	0	34	1.7	15	6.5	9.3	100
Nsanje	9.7	24.1	1.7	40.8	0.2	10.6	5.5	7.5	100
Balaka	9.7	32.9	1.3	32.9	4.8	8.3	1.1	8.9	100
Neno	13.4	11.8	1.8	24.9	2.7	28.4	4.8	12	100
Zomba City	22	18.5	0.7	31.6	1.6	8.8	6.5	10.3	100
Blantyre City	13.7	12.3	4	38.9	6.3	6.7	6.2	11.7	100
Mulanje	10.4	22.5	2.8	25.7	5.4	18	4.1	11.1	100
Phalombe	17.5	19.5	0	21.7	0	21.7	5.6	14.1	100
Chikwawa	8.4	25.2	0	34	1.7	15	6.5	9.3	100
Nsanje	9.7	24.1	1.7	40.8	0.2	10.6	5.5	7.5	100
Balaka	9.7	32.9	1.3	32.9	4.8	8.3	1.1	8.9	100
Neno	13.4	11.8	1.8	24.9	2.7	28.4	4.8	12	100
Zomba City	22	18.5	0.7	31.6	1.6	8.8	6.5	10.3	100
Blantyre City	13.7	12.3	4	38.9	6.3	6.7	6.2	11.7	100

Table 6.4 also reveals that the distribution of places of business operation varies considerably according to the place of residence. In urban localities, those who operate inside residences represented nearly 12 percent compared to 15 percent in rural areas and about 17 percent of the enterprises in urban areas are mobile as opposed to 11 percent in rural areas.

Across regions, household enterprises were mainly located either in a traditional market or at home (outside the residence). Traditional market base was more common in the Southern than in the Northern or in the Central Region (33.7 percent in Southern Region compared to

30 percent in Northern Region and 26.8 percent in Central Region). In Central Region, 23 percent of the businesses were based at home (outside residence). The proportion of mobile vendors was higher in the Northern Region (17 percent) than in the Southern and Northern Regions (10.5 percent in the South and 15 percent in the North).

Male-headed households had more mobile businesses than female-headed households since 11 percent of female-headed households reported mobile vending compared to 14 percent for male-headed households.

Neno district enumerated the highest proportion of roadside based enterprises among the districts (28 percent). The lowest reported instances for roadside-based businesses were in Dedza district (1 percent).

6.6 Primary market of products and services

The principal markets for the products or services of the household enterprises were also investigated in the survey. The results are presented in Table 6.5. Final consumers were the main market of products and services of household enterprises with 84 percent followed by traders at 9 percent and other small businesses at 4 percent. Less than 1 percent of household enterprises were selling their goods and services to manufacturers or marketing boards.

The proportion of enterprises selling to final consumers were slightly higher in urban areas (84.9 percent) than in rural areas (84 percent) and the proportion selling to traders is higher in rural areas (9 percent) than in urban areas (7 percent). At the regional level, Northern and Southern Regions did not report any enterprise that was selling its products and services to market boards. In Central Region, 85 percent of the enterprises were selling their products and services to final consumers and almost 7 percent were selling to traders while in the Southern Region, 84 percent reported to have been selling to final consumers and 10 percent were selling to traders.

In male-headed households, 4 percent of the enterprises were selling to other small businesses while in female-headed households, 3 percent of the enterprises were selling to other small businesses. Female-headed households with non-farm enterprises were likely to sell their products to final consumers than male-headed households (88 percent in male-headed households and 83 percent in female-headed households).

Nkhotakota district recorded the highest proportion of household businesses that were mainly selling their products and services to final consumers (97 percent) and the rest of the

products were being sold to traders. Machinga district recorded the lowest proportion of household businesses that were selling to final consumers (63 percent) and that 25 percent of the products and services were being sold to traders.

Table 6.5 Percentage distribution of non-farm enterprises by market for their products or services according to background characteristics

Background characteristics	Market for product or service							
	Final consumers	Traders	Other small businesses	Large established businesses/institutions	Manufacturer	Marketing board	Other	Total
Malawi	84.2	8.5	3.8	0.7	0.2	0.1	2.5	100
Place of residence								
Urban	84.9	7.0	4.3	1.5	0.5	0.2	1.6	100
Rural	83.9	9.2	3.6	0.4	0.1	0.0	2.9	100
Region								
North	83.2	8.3	3.9	1.0	0.0	0.0	3.6	100
Centre	85.1	6.7	3.5	0.7	0.2	0.1	3.7	100
South	83.6	10.2	4.1	0.7	0.3	0.0	1.0	100
Sex of head								
Male	83.2	9.3	4.0	0.9	0.2	0.1	2.4	100
Female	88.2	5.4	3.1	0.2	0.4	0.0	2.7	100
Age of household head								
Up to 24	77.3	14.1	2.3	0.8	0.0	0.3	5.2	100
25-34	85.7	9.1	2.7	0.5	0.2	0.1	1.7	100
35-49	82.7	7.9	5.6	0.9	0.1	0.0	2.7	100
50-64	88.1	6.1	2.8	0.5	0.8	0.0	1.7	100
65+	88.0	6.0	2.4	1.6	0.0	0.0	2.1	100
Education level of household head								
None	84.5	8.5	3.7	0.5	0.2	0.0	2.6	100
Primary	85.3	5.0	4.8	1	0.0	0.0	3.9	100
Secondary	84.7	7.3	4.3	2	0.0	0.2	1	100
Tertiary	73.5	16.8	4.7	2.9	0.0	0.0	2.1	100
Marital status of head								
Married	83.2	9.1	3.9	2.4	0.0	1.0	0.4	100
Separated, divorced	83.1	9.3	3.9	0.8	0.2	0.0	2.7	100
Widow or widower	86.8	5.6	3.9	0.3	0.9	0.0	2.6	100
Never married	92.9	3.3	2.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.9	100
District								
Chitipa	89.0	2.4	2.1	0.0				100
Karonga	85.4	5.8	2	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	100
Nkhata Bay	84	10.6	1.4	1.3	0.0	0.0	2.7	100
Rumphi	79.2	11.8	2.8	1.9	0.0	0.0	4.3	100
Mzimba	84.7	8.2	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	100
Likoma	92	3.9	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	100

Table 6.5 continued

Background characteristics	Final consumers	Traders	Other small businesses	Large established businesses/institutions	Manufacturer	Marketing board	Other	Total
Mzuzu City	79.9	10.6	6.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	2.5	100
Kasungu	91	3.7	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	100
Nkhotakota	96.8	2.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	100
Ntchisi	95.2	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	100
Dowa	81.9	7.1	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.0	6.5	100
Salima	77.1	6.2	2.4	0.0	0.0	1.4	12.9	100
Lilongwe	85.8	7.1	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	100
Mchinji	87.8	1.7	3.6	0.0	0.9	0.0	6.1	100
Dedza	74.9	15.9	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	100
Ntcheu	73.1	9.6	12.2	1.3	0.0	0.0	3.8	100
Lilongwe City	88.3	6.2	2.6	1.5	0.2	0.2	1	100
Mangochi	93.2	5.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	1.7	100
Machinga	63.2	24.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.9	100
Zomba	79	17.5	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Chiradzulu	91.9	3.8	3.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.7	100
Blantyre	88.7	4.5	4.0	0.9	1.0	0.0	1.0	100
Mwanza	89.2	7.9	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	100
Thyolo	92.6	5.1	1.2	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Mulanje	83.1	12.8	3.7	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	100
Phalombe	89.9	6.4	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	100
Chikwawa	86.9	9.8	2.8	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	100
Nsanje	78.5	14.5	6.9	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	100
Balaka	76.6	13.9	6.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	2.4	100
Neno	76.8	20.6	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	100
Zomba City	82.6	9.7	5.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	100
Blantyre City	82.7	7.0	6.1	2.0	0.8	0.0	1.5	100

6.7 Formal registration status of enterprises

Few household non-farm enterprises are officially registered (Table 6.6). Overall, almost 10 percent of businesses reported to have registered by any of the official registration bodies (Registrar of Companies, Malawi Revenue Authority or Local Assemblies). There were differences in the proportion of registered enterprises between rural and urban areas where almost 17 percent of businesses in urban areas are registered compared to about approximately 6 percent in rural areas.

Southern Region had the lowest proportion of formally registered enterprises (9 percent) compared to Northern Region (12 percent) and Central Region (10 percent). Male-headed households had a higher proportion of registered businesses (11 percent) compared to female-headed households (5 percent). Households whose heads had no education (9 percent) have a few proportion of registered businesses compared to households whose heads had a tertiary education (27 percent).

At district level, the results further showed that Dedza and Chiradzulu districts had the lowest proportion of registered businesses (1 percent in Dedza and 2 percent in Chiradzulu) compared to other districts. Blantyre city and Salima district had the highest proportion of registered businesses (25 percent in Blantyre city and 22 percent in Salima)

Table 6.6 further reveals that a higher proportion of household enterprises were officially registered with local assemblies (8 percent). About 4 percent were registered with the Malawi Revenue Authority and about 3 percent were registered with the registrar of companies. Fourteen percent of urban based enterprises were registered with the Local Assembly, almost 6 percent were either registered to Malawi revenue Authority or Registrar of companies compared to rural based enterprises.

Household non-farm enterprise owners or managers were also asked if they belonged to any registered business association and the results have also been presented in Table 6.6.

The findings show that household enterprise owners or managers who belonged to any registered business association are substantially low (3 percent). Urban areas had higher proportion of enterprise owners who belonged to business association (5 percent) compared to rural areas (2 percent). Across regions, there were no differences in terms of owners who belonged to business associations (almost 3 percent for both North and Central Region and 2 percent for Southern Region). In male-headed households, 3 percent of business owners or managers belonged to a business association while in female-headed households, 1 percent of the owners belonged to business associations.

At district level, it was noted that Dowa, Salima and Blantyre districts registered a higher proportion of owners belong to a business association compared to the other districts (5.8 percent in Dowa and 5.6 percent in both Salima and Blantyre city).

Table 6.6 Proportion of registered enterprises and owners by registration agencies and background characteristics, Malawi 2016

Background characteristics	Proportion of registered enterprises	Registration agencies			Proportion of enterprise owners or managers who belong to registered business association
		Registrar of Companies	Malawi Revenue Authority	Local Assembly	
Malawi	9.8	2.8	3.6	8.0	2.5
Place of residence					
Urban	16.7	5.8	6.2	14.0	4.6
Rural	6.4	1.2	2.3	5.1	1.5
Region					
North	12.2	2.9	4.3	10.5	2.8
Centre	9.8	3.0	3.7	7.6	3.0
South	9.2	2.5	3.2	7.8	2.0
Sex of household head					
Male	11.3	3.2	4.1	9.3	3.0
Female	4.7	1.1	1.7	3.8	1.0
Age of household head					
Up to 24	8.7	1.8	3.4	7.5	1.5
25-34	8.1	2.0	2.3	5.7	2.0
35-49	11.3	3.3	4.6	9.5	3.4
50-64	10.9	3.5	3.6	9.6	2.7
65+	7.9	2.5	3.1	7.7	1.1
Education of household head					
None	8.9	2.1	2.7	7.3	2.0
Primary	12.0	3.8	5.1	9.6	2.5
Secondary	11.2	3.5	6.1	9.2	5.3
Tertiary	29.6	19.3	16.4	22.7	8.4
Marital status of head					
Married	18.5	4.1	10.1	15.6	3.6
Separated, divorced	10.8	3.1	3.7	8.9	2.7
Widow or widower	3.9	0.7	1.7	2.9	2.5
Never married	5.3	1.6	2.3	4.2	0.8
District					
Chitipa	6.1	0.8	0.0	5.3	0.0
Karonga	8.7	2.8	2.1	8.0	3.6
Nkhata Bay	2.9	1.3	1.3	2.9	0.0
Rumphi	14.6	4.2	8.3	12.6	4.3
Mzimba	8.3	0.0	4.1	8.3	2.5
Likoma	16.1	2.4	4.9	16.1	0.0
Mzuzu City	20.7	4.8	7.6	17.0	3.6
Kasungu	2.7	0.0	0.8	1.9	0.0
Nkhotakota	6.3	1.4	2.5	4.9	0.0
Ntchisi	6.9	2.8	4.4	5.6	1.2
Dowa	9.4	3.6	7.1	4.9	5.8
Salima	22.1	6.7	11.7	13.3	5.6
Lilongwe	11.6	2.1	1.5	10.2	2.0
Mchinji	11.2	3.9	1.8	10.0	0.0
Dedza	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0

Table 6.6 continued

Background characteristics	Proportion of registered enterprises	Registrar of Companies	Malawi Revenue Authority	Local Assembly	Proportion of enterprise owners or managers who belong to registered business association
Ntcheu	6.4	1.5	3.1	6.4	4.6
Lilongwe City	12.4	4.6	4.9	9.8	4.7
Mangochi	8.5	3.4	5.9	4.2	0.0
Machinga	2.8	0.0	0.0	2.8	1.6
Zomba	3.4	0.0	1.7	1.7	0.0
Chiradzulu	2.2	0.0	0.9	1.2	0.7
Blantyre	2.9	1.0	1.9	1.9	1.0
Mwanza	2.9	0.7	2.9	1.0	0.7
Thyolo	4.2	1.3	0.5	2.5	0.0
Mulanje	9.0	0.4	3.1	8.6	0.8
Phalombe	3.1	0.0	0.9	2.2	0.0
Chikwawa	4.9	1.0	2.0	3.9	4.9
Nsanje	6.7	0.0	1.9	5.9	1.0
Balaka	6.2	1.8	1.8	6.2	0.0
Neno	4.2	0.0	1.1	4.2	0.4
Zomba City	14.9	7.0	7.3	12.3	3.7
Blantyre City	24.9	8.5	7.5	22.6	5.6

6.8 Enterprises engaged in sales of forest based products

The IHS4 showed that at the national level forest based household non-farm enterprises are few and accounted for almost 12 percent of all household enterprises (Table 6.7). The proportion was higher in rural area (12.5 percent) compared to urban areas (9.6 percent). By region, Central Region had the highest proportion (12.7 percent) followed by Northern Region (12.2 percent) and Southern Region (10.9 percent).

The proportion of enterprises selling gathered and processed forest products was higher in male-headed households (12.1 percent) than in female-headed households (11 percent). In terms age of the household head, the proportion of enterprises selling forest based products increased with age of the household head from 8 percent in younger heads of households to 19 percent in older heads of households.

At district level, Neno had the highest proportion of enterprises engaging with forest based products (30 percent) followed by Nkhata Bay (24 percent) and Ntcheu (21 percent).

The survey results further showed that the highest source of forest based products at the national level is from other sellers (54 percent). Forests and park reserves came second as a major source of forest based products (22 percent) followed by communal land (4 percent)

and own land (4 percent). In terms of place of residence, most of the enterprises in urban areas purchase forest products from other businesses (83 percent) compared to almost 42 percent in rural areas. The second most important source of forest based products in rural areas is the forest or park reserve at almost 28 percent compared to 8 percent in urban areas.

Northern Region had the highest proportion of enterprises sourcing forest based products from their own land at 10 percent, followed by Southern Region at 4 percent and Central Region at 3 percent. Central Region had the highest proportion of enterprises sourcing forest based products from other sellers at 61 percent, followed by Southern Region at 48 percent and Central Region at 45 percent

By sex of the household head, the proportion of enterprises sourcing products from the forest/park reserve was lower in male-headed households (21 percent) relative to those in female-headed households (25 percent). The proportion of enterprises sourcing forest-based products was higher in male-headed households for enterprises that purchased the products from other traders at 57 percent compared to their female counterparts (41 percent).

Table 6.7 Proportion of enterprises that sell forest based products and source of the products according to background characteristics

Background characteristics	Proportion of enterprises that sell forest based products	Source of forest based products					Total
		Own land	Forest/wild park reserve	Communal land	Purchased from someone	Other	
Malawi	11.9	4.4	21.9	15.9	53.8	4.0	100.0
Place of residence							
Urban	10.6	2.7	8.2	5.5	82.9	0.7	100.0
Rural	12.5	5.2	27.5	20.2	41.7	5.4	100.0
Region							
North	12.2	9.9	24.9	18.2	44.7	2.3	100.0
Centre	12.7	3.4	14.9	16.7	60.7	4.3	100.0
South	10.9	4.2	29.1	14.3	48.3	4.1	100.0
Sex of head							
Male	12.1	4.8	21.0	13.8	57.3	3.1	100.0
Female	11.0	3.0	25.1	24.2	40.5	7.3	100.0
Age of household head							
Up to 24	8.1	2.6	25.7	12.6	56.1	3.0	100.0
25-34	10.7	1.0	24.6	7.1	63.4	3.9	100.0
35-49	12.0	6.0	18.1	17.2	52.9	5.8	100.0
50-64	13.0	3.3	21.5	25.4	49.0	0.7	100.0
65+	19.4	10.6	27.1	22.5	36.9	2.9	100.0

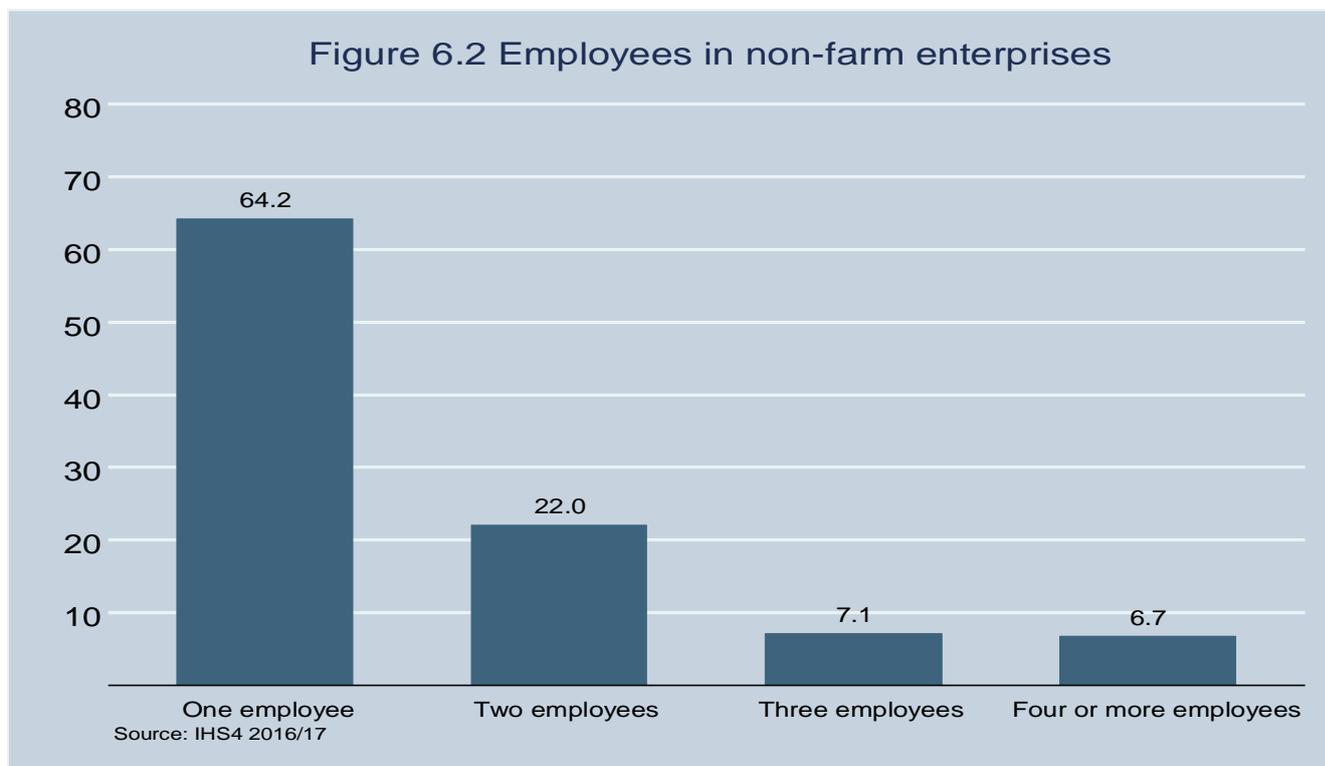
Table 6.7 continued

Background characteristics	Proportion of enterprises that sell forest based products	Own land	Forest/wild park reserve	Communal land	Purchased from someone	Other	Total
Education of household head							
None	12.3	4.6	23.8	16.6	50.6	4.4	100.0
Primary	15.0	7.5	5.9	16.8	69.8	0.0	100.0
Secondary	8.7	0.0	15.7	8.5	72.1	3.7	100.0
Tertiary	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Marital status of head							100.0
Married	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	71.7	28.3	100.0
Separated, divorced	12.7	4.4	20.7	16.4	55.4	3.1	
Widow or widower	9.8	3.8	23.6	7.2	54.3	11.1	100.0
Never married	8.8	6.2	38.0	22.7	28.0	5.0	100.0
District							100.0
Chitipa	11.5	12.2	37.8	8.9	41.2	0.0	100.0
Karonga	12.3	15.0	27.7	41.6	15.7	0.0	100.0
Nkhata Bay	23.5	14.4	38.9	13.6	27.5	5.6	100.0
Rumphi	5.5	0.0	60.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Mzimba	14.0	14.8	11.9	8.2	65.1	0.0	100.0
Likoma	0.0						100.0
Mzuzu City	10.6	0.0	7.2	2.9	85.2	4.7	100.0
Kasungu	17.3	0.0	6.2	31.3	45.4	17.1	
Nkhotakota	2.4	0.0	38.2	0.0	61.8	0.0	100.0
Ntchisi	4.1	0.0	28.5	0.0	31.6	39.9	100.0
Dowa	17.1	15.2	12.5	17.2	43.7	11.5	100.0
Salima	8.0	0.0	18.7	18.7	62.5	0.0	100.0
Lilongwe	10.0	0.0	19.0	19.8	61.2	0.0	100.0
Mchinji	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Dedza	17.0	0.0	30.1	25.0	44.9	0.0	100.0
Ntcheu	20.8	0.0	34.5	16.4	49.1	0.0	100.0
Lilongwe City	13.1	3.7	4.3	7.5	84.5	0.0	100.0
Mangochi	9.1	0.0	32.7	32.7	34.5	0.0	100.0
Machinga	5.7	0.0	33.2	20.0	46.7	0.0	100.0
Zomba	11.9	7.1	29.4	7.1	49.2	7.1	100.0
Chiradzulu	8.9	0.0	19.8	0.0	61.2	19.0	100.0
Blantyre	9.1	13.9	11.4	15.0	48.3	11.4	100.0
Mwanza	12.2	5.8	21.9	7.7	64.6	0.0	100.0
Thyolo	9.0	0.0	28.2	42.6	29.2	0.0	100.0
Mulanje	8.6	0.0	42.2	13.5	34.8	9.5	100.0
Phalombe	9.5	0.0	66.1	0.0	33.9	0.0	100.0
Chikwawa	18.1	9.8	45.7	19.3	20.9	4.4	100.0
Nsanje	17.5	4.3	58.2	24.3	13.2	0.0	100.0
Balaka	7.8	0.0	30.5	25.7	43.8	0.0	100.0
Neno	29.6	19.0	2.7	19.0	55.5	3.8	100.0
Zomba City	16.1	0.0	43.8	0.0	54.1	2.0	100.0
Blantyre City	8.9	0.0	0.0	3.6	96.4	0.0	100.0

6.9 Profile of employment in household enterprises

Household non-farm enterprises are quite small in terms of employment, with the average number of persons engaged (inclusive of the proprietor) under two. The typical non-farm business is a one person operation with about 64 percent of all enterprises consisting of only the proprietor, almost 22 percent having two persons and about 7 percent employing 4 or more persons (Figure 6.2).

Figure 6.2 Employees in non-farm enterprises



6.10 Household members engaged in enterprise

The distribution of household members engaged in non-farm household enterprises is shown in Table 6.8. The results indicated that owners or managers of approximately 75 percent of the enterprises did not engage any other household members in their operations. About 18 percent involved 2 household members, 4 percent engaged 3 household members and 2 percent had 4 or more household members working in the enterprise.

In urban areas, 14 percent of the owners or managers of non-farm enterprises engaged 2 household members, while in rural areas 20 percent of the owners or managers of non-farm enterprises engaged 2 household members. At regional level, the Southern Region has relatively higher proportion of enterprises operated by single household member (78

percent) compared to Central (75 percent) and Northern Regions (68 percent). Almost 15 percent of the enterprises in female-headed households, owners or managers engaged two household members while in male-headed households it was 19 percent.

Blantyre city had a higher proportion of owners or managers who did not engage household members in their business operations (86.6 percent) followed by Mchinji district at 83 percent) and Nkhotakota and Nkhata Bay had the lowest proportion (63 percent).

Table 6.8 Distribution of enterprises by number of household members engaged in the enterprise according to background characteristics

Background characteristics	Household members engaged in enterprise				
	1	2	3	4 or more	Total
Malawi	75.4	18.1	4.4	2.2	100.0
Place of residence					
Urban	79.4	14.0	5.0	1.7	100.0
Rural	73.4	20.1	4.1	2.4	100.0
Region					100.0
North	68.3	23.7	5.4	2.7	100.0
Centre	75.0	17.5	5.1	2.4	
South	77.6	17.2	3.4	1.8	100.0
Sex of head					100.0
Male	74.7	19.0	4.1	2.1	100.0
Female	77.6	14.8	5.2	2.4	100.0
Age of household head					100.0
Up to 24	84.7	13.0	1.8	0.5	
25-34	78.6	18.5	2.1	0.8	100.0
35-49	74.1	16.8	6.1	3.0	100.0
50-64	68.5	19.8	7.5	4.2	100.0
65+	71.0	26.7	1.2	1.1	100.0
Education level of household head					
None	74.8	18.7	4.3	2.2	100.0
Primary	73.6	17.2	5.3	3.9	100.0
Secondary	79.9	14.4	5.5	0.1	100.0
Tertiary	80.4	13.8	1.9	3.8	100.0
Marital status of head					100.0
Married	91.7	5.9	0.0	2.4	100.0
Separated, divorced	74.0	19.3	4.5	2.2	
Widow or widower	80.6	11.7	4.5	3.2	100.0
Never married	76.9	18.3	4.0	0.8	100.0
District					100.0
Chitipa	67.6	24.0	8.4	0.0	100.0
Karonga	68.5	25.8	4.2	1.5	100.0
Nkhata Bay	63.2	29.3	3.4	4.1	100.0
Rumphi	67.8	23.9	6.3	2.1	100.0
Mzimba	70.7	20.6	6.1	2.6	100.0
Likoma	65.4	21.7	8.3	4.6	100.0

Table 6.8 continued

Background characteristics	1	2	3	4 or more	Total
Mzuzu City	69.4	20.7	5.3	4.6	100.0
Kasungu	65.9	25.2	4.3	4.5	
Nkhotakota	63.2	29.2	3.1	4.4	100.0
Ntchisi	69.0	21.6	7.5	1.9	100.0
Dowa	68.1	18.7	11.0	2.3	100.0
Salima	77.3	19.0	3.7	0.0	100.0
Lilongwe	78.0	19.0	1.2	1.7	100.0
Mchinji	82.7	14.4	2.8	0.0	100.0
Dedza	70.8	21.2	2.5	5.4	100.0
Ntcheu	69.1	20.7	4.9	5.3	100.0
Lilongwe City	80.8	10.7	7.1	1.5	100.0
Mangochi	74.3	23.8	1.9	0.0	100.0
Machinga	66.7	25.0	6.0	2.3	100.0
Zomba	69.8	22.8	5.7	1.7	100.0
Chiradzulu	91.0	7.8	1.2	0.0	100.0
Blantyre	79.9	17.3	2.7	0.0	100.0
Mwanza	70.1	22.1	7.1	0.8	100.0
Thyolo	80.7	16.9	1.2	1.2	100.0
Mulanje	77.9	12.5	4.5	5.1	100.0
Phalombe	75.3	18.4	4.3	2.0	100.0
Chikwawa	71.7	22.2	4.4	1.8	100.0
Nsanje	67.0	23.7	6.2	3.1	100.0
Balaka	74.8	19.7	2.6	3.0	100.0
Neno	64.0	26.8	4.0	5.2	100.0
Zomba City	75.2	20.3	3.0	1.4	100.0
Blantyre City	86.6	10.4	2.1	0.9	100.0

6.11 Non-household members engaged in enterprise

The percentage distribution of enterprises by number of non-household members engaged is being presented in Table 6.9. Most enterprises did not engage non-household members in their operations (90 percent). 4 percent of enterprises had only one employee, 3 percent had two employees, 1 percent had three workers and 2 percent had four or more employees.

Ninety-three percent of enterprises in rural areas had no non-household members engaged in the enterprises compared to 85 percent in urban areas. Three percent in rural areas had one employee as opposed to 6 percent in the urban areas. Across regions, the Central Region had slightly higher proportion of enterprises which did not engage non-household members in their operations at 91 percent, followed by Northern and Central Region at 90 percent. Northern Region registered highest proportion of enterprise employing 1 non-household member (5 percent) compared to Central (3 percent) and South region (4.2 percent).

Enterprises in female-headed households were more likely to have no employees (95 percent) than in male-headed households (89 percent). However, nearly 3 percent of the enterprises in male-headed households employed 4 or more workers compared to less than 1 percent in female-headed households.

At district level, over 95 percent of non-farm enterprises in Chitipa, Lilongwe, Mchinji, Machinga, Zomba, and Blantyre do not engage non household members as workers. Blantyre city registered a lower proportion of enterprises having no non-household member at 77 percent and had 6 percent of enterprises employing 4 or over employees.

Table 6.9 Distribution of enterprises by number of non-household members engaged in the enterprise according to background characteristics , Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Non- household members engaged in enterprise					Total
	None	1	2	3	4 or more	
Malawi	90.2	3.8	3.0	1.0	2.0	100.0
Place of residence						
Urban	85.3	5.5	4.5	1.3	3.3	100.0
Rural	92.6	2.9	2.2	0.9	1.4	100.0
Area						
Urban North	86.0	6.6	4.2	1.2	2.0	100.0
Urban Center	88.9	4.3	3.7	0.5	2.6	100.0
Urban South	80.3	6.5	5.8	2.5	4.9	100.0
Rural North	93.8	3.1	1.7	0.9	0.5	100.0
Rural Centre	91.4	2.3	3.0	1.0	2.2	100.0
Rural South	93.5	3.4	1.6	0.7	0.8	100.0
Region						
North	89.9	4.9	3.0	1.1	1.2	100.0
Centre	90.6	3.0	3.2	0.8	2.3	100.0
South	89.9	4.2	2.7	1.2	1.9	100.0
Sex of head						
Male	88.9	4.0	3.3	1.3	2.5	100.0
Female	94.8	3.0	1.6	0.1	0.5	100.0
Age of household head						100.0
Up to 24	89.4	6.7	2.7	0.2	1.0	
25-34	91.6	4.0	1.6	1.4	1.4	100.0
35-49	88.4	3.8	4.7	1.1	2.1	100.0
50-64	91.5	2.8	1.9	0.9	2.9	100.0
65+	92.8	1.1	1.3	0.5	4.3	100.0

Table 6.9 continued

Background characteristics	None	1	2	3	4 or more	Total
Education level of household head						
None	91.7	3.1	2.5	1.0	1.7	100.0
Primary	86.6	5.4	3.9	1.0	3.0	100.0
Secondary	86.4	5.1	5.4	0.7	2.4	100.0
Tertiary	66.8	17.1	5.7	1.7	8.7	100.0
Marital status of head						
Married	82.7	8.4	3.9	1.4	3.6	100.0
Separated, divorced	89.5	4.0	3.2	1.2	2.2	100.0
Widow or widower	94.1	2.6	2.1	0.2	1.0	100.0
Never married	94.7	2.1	1.9	0.0	1.3	100.0
District						
Chitipa	97.9	0.0	1.1	0.0	1.0	100.0
Karonga	91.8	4.4	1.5	0.8	1.4	100.0
Nkhata Bay	94.2	4.5	0.0	1.3	0.0	100.0
Rumphhi	83.4	3.2	6.8	1.1	5.5	100.0
Mzimba	88.5	6.7	4.8	0.0	0.0	100.0
Likoma	88.7	5.5	1.7	1.7	2.4	100.0
Mzuzu City	86.2	7.1	4.1	2.0	0.6	100.0
Kasungu	93.3	2.1	1.6	0.0	2.9	100.0
Nkhotakota	92.9	5.8	0.0	0.0	1.3	100.0
Ntchisi	89.2	5.8	3.5	1.5	0.0	100.0
Dowa	81.7	3.3	8.0	1.6	5.4	100.0
Salima	91.1	1.7	2.7	3.5	1.1	100.0
Lilongwe	97.6	0.9	0.0	0.7	0.7	100.0
Mchinji	95.5	2.6	1.9	0.0	0.0	100.0
Dedza	86.2	2.0	6.3	2.5	2.9	100.0
Ntcheu	89.9	1.6	5.0	0.0	3.5	100.0
Lilongwe City	88.3	5.0	3.5	0.5	2.6	100.0
Mangochi	88.8	4.9	3.1	3.2	0.0	100.0
Machinga	98.5	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.8	100.0
Zomba	97.5	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Chiradzulu	93.3	1.4	3.2	0.0	2.1	100.0
Blantyre	95.9	2.1	1.0	0.0	1.0	100.0
Mwanza	91.8	6.7	0.0	0.7	0.7	100.0
Thyolo	93.0	3.8	1.9	0.0	1.4	100.0
Mulanje	94.4	4.8	0.4	0.0	0.4	100.0
Phalombe	90.6	3.8	0.8	4.0	0.9	100.0
Chikwawa	92.0	3.6	2.8	1.0	0.6	100.0
Nsanje	93.2	3.9	1.5	0.0	1.5	100.0
Balaka	91.9	1.3	4.7	2.1	0.0	100.0
Neno	87.6	6.9	1.6	2.4	1.4	100.0
Zomba City	84.8	7.1	4.1	1.3	2.7	100.0
Blantyre City	77.0	7.5	6.6	2.8	6.1	100.0

6.12 Expenses of operating household non-farm enterprises

The survey further collected information on expenses of operating non-farm household enterprises and the results have been presented in Table 6.10. The two largest categories of costs were the purchasing of goods that are resold or transformed i.e. inventory and raw materials. Raw materials enumerated 44 percent and inventories accounted for 34 percent of the total expenses. Transportation or freight accounted for about 10 percent of the enterprises' total expenses. Fuel and oils had about 3 percent share of the total expenditure and utilities (electricity and water) accounted for 2 percent, while insurance costs constituted less than 1 percent.

Notable results in urban areas were that 43 percent of the expenses were spent on inventories and almost 36 percent were spent on raw materials. In rural areas, 49 percent of the expenses were raw materials and 30 percent were inventories. Across regions, more expenses were on inventories of the expenses in Northern Region (37.9 percent) while in Central Region and Southern Regions, more expenses were on raw materials (45.2 percent in for both regions)

The results further indicated that 42 percent of the enterprises in male-headed households spent on raw materials whereas in female-headed households 53 percent of the businesses spent on raw materials. Cumulatively, almost 16 percent of the enterprises in male-headed households spent on transport, fuels and utilities whereas in female-headed households, the cumulative proportion of enterprises spending on transport, fuels and utilities was 12 percent.

At district level, a cumulative 88 percent of non-farm household enterprises in Mwanza spent on raw materials and inventories while running the business and a cumulative 64 percent of the businesses in Ntcheu district spent on raw materials.

Table 6.10 Distribution of enterprise total expenditure by item according to background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Raw materials	Inventory	Freight/Transport	Fuel/Oil	Electricity	Water	Insurance	Other	Total
Malawi	44.2	34.5	10.3	2.6	1.5	0.5	0.6	5.8	100.0
Place of residence									
Urban	35.7	43.1	9.9	2.4	2.2	0.6	0.8	5.1	100.0
Rural	48.7	29.9	10.5	2.6	1.1	0.5	0.5	6.1	100.0
Region									
North	36.7	37.9	8.8	2.4	1.7	0.8	0.5	11.0	100.0
Centre	45.2	33.0	12.6	2.4	1.5	0.6	0.6	4.1	100.0
South	45.2	35.1	8.3	2.8	1.5	0.4	0.6	6.1	100.0
Sex of head									
Male	41.7	35.7	10.6	2.7	1.8	0.6	0.7	6.3	100.0
Female	53.0	30.4	9.4	2.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	3.9	100.0
Age of household head									
Up to 24	38.1	39.3	8.0	2.5	3.0	0.4	1.4	7.3	100.0
25-34	41.6	35.0	12.0	2.2	2.0	0.4	0.5	6.2	100.0
35-49	44.7	34.9	9.9	3.0	1.1	0.7	0.6	5.2	100.0
50-64	49.7	29.5	9.5	2.8	0.9	0.5	0.4	6.8	100.0
65+	50.2	34.2	9.6	1.4	1.0	0.3	0.3	3.0	100.0
Education level of household head									
None	45.8	33.6	10.1	2.4	1.2	0.5	0.5	6.0	100.0
Primary	36.1	38.4	9.7	3.8	2.8	0.4	1.8	7.0	100.0
Secondary	38.8	38.0	11.6	2.8	2.8	1.2	0.5	4.3	100.0
Tertiary	34.6	40.5	12.0	4.9	2.8	0.3	1.2	3.7	100.0
Marital status of head									
Married	23.2	53.2	8.7	0.2	4.8	0.8	3.6	5.5	100.0
Separated, divorced	41.9	35.4	10.9	2.7	1.6	0.5	0.6	6.3	100.0
Widow or widower	58.4	27.3	7.4	2.5	0.2	0.5	0.2	3.5	100.0
Never married	53.6	29.4	9.1	1.9	1.0	0.4	0.6	4.0	100.0
District									
Chitipa	40.4	45.1	6.1	0.4	1.8	0.1	0.2	5.7	100.0
Karonga	31.2	41.6	8.4	3.0	1.9	0.9	0.1	12.9	100.0
Nkhata Bay	29.6	50.5	15.5	1.1	1.0	0.0	0.5	1.7	100.0
Rumphi	35.0	45.8	5.8	2.6	1.4	0.4	1.0	8.1	100.0
Mzimba	46.2	22.4	9.2	2.9	2.0	0.7	0.8	15.9	100.0
Likoma	38.3	44.8	11.9	0.0	1.4	0.5	0.3	2.7	100.0
Mzuzu City	39.2	31.4	8.9	2.8	1.8	1.5	0.6	13.7	100.0
Kasungu	37.2	39.2	18.2	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.0	3.9	100.0
Nkhotakota	58.6	17.3	16.0	1.8	1.1	0.4	0.0	4.7	100.0
Ntchisi	52.1	25.1	10.3	6.8	0.8	0.0	0.3	4.7	100.0
Dowa	44.9	23.6	16.8	4.1	0.2	0.3	0.7	9.3	100.0
Salima	61.2	13.1	7.4	2.8	2.4	2.9	4.3	6.0	100.0

Table 6.9 continued

Background characteristics	Raw materials	Inventory	Freight/Transport	Fuel/Oil	Electricity	Water	Insurance	Other	Total
Mchinji	42.7	28.2	11.8	1.2	6.1	0.5	0.3	9.1	100.0
Dedza	54.9	29.8	7.8	2.2	0.1	1.8	0.0	3.4	100.0
Ntcheu	40.7	23.7	24.1	5.7	2.6	0.3	1.0	1.9	100.0
Lilongwe City	37.3	46.1	9.0	2.1	2.1	0.6	0.8	1.9	100.0
Mangochi	46.4	28.9	17.1	3.6	0.2	0.0	3.6	0.3	100.0
Machinga	53.0	29.0	5.2	1.2	3.6	0.1	0.6	7.2	100.0
Zomba	40.4	47.4	6.9	1.2	0.1	1.0	0.6	2.4	100.0
Chiradzulu	64.8	20.8	6.5	2.6	0.5	0.3	0.0	4.5	100.0
Blantyre	34.3	46.1	6.7	1.5	1.9	0.8	0.1	8.7	100.0
Mwanza	64.5	23.4	4.6	4.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	3.1	100.0
Thyolo	61.9	20.8	6.2	2.9	1.3	0.0	0.2	6.6	100.0
Mulanje	41.5	38.7	6.7	4.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	8.5	100.0
Phalombe	36.0	39.7	2.1	6.2	0.2	2.5	0.0	13.2	100.0
Chikwawa	53.9	25.2	6.3	2.1	1.2	0.4	0.0	10.7	100.0
Nsanje	49.2	27.8	8.3	2.7	2.0	0.2	0.5	9.2	100.0
Balaka	42.0	40.7	10.2	1.1	1.7	0.0	2.7	1.6	100.0
Neno	45.6	21.7	19.8	5.8	1.0	1.1	0.0	5.0	100.0
Zomba City	34.4	40.9	7.7	3.5	2.1	0.8	2.0	8.6	100.0
Blantyre City	32.4	46.7	10.9	2.6	2.8	0.1	0.5	4.0	100.0

6.13 Income generating activities

All persons 5 years of age and above were asked if they had worked for household agricultural activities (including fishing) or household business or engaged in casual or part-time or *ganyu* labour or worked for salary, commission, wage or any payment in kind excluding *ganyu* in the past seven days and the number of hours spent on these income generating activities. This section focuses on the working age population between 15 and 64 years old.

The results in table 6.11 show that overall, 89 percent of the population is engaged in income generating activities while 76 percent of the population is engaged in household agricultural or fishing activities. About 42 percent of the interviewed households were engaged in casual, part-time or *ganyu* labour.

Analysing data by place of residence, the results show that there was a higher proportion of rural residents (94 percent) who participated in income generating tasks compared to 69 percent of urban residents. Further analysis by sex of individuals shows a slightly higher proportion of males (89 percent) who participated in income generating tasks compared to 88 percent of females.

There are also variations in the proportion of household members who participated in agricultural or fishing activities. Analysing data by place of residence shows that a higher proportion of rural households (89 percent) participated in agricultural or fishing activities compared to 31 percent of urban households. The study has further revealed that the higher the educational qualification of an individual, the less likely they are to engage in agriculture or fishing activities. For example, results in Table 6.11 show that 84 percent of households with no education participated in agricultural or fishing activities compared to 27 percent of households with tertiary education. This is a reversal of persons who are engaged in salary, wage, commissions or any payment activities where only 5 percent of households with no education were engaged in salary, wage and commission compared to 68 percent of those who had tertiary education.

Table 6.11 also shows that among persons doing tasks, on average they spend 38 hours on wage, salary, commission or any payment in kind (not including ganyu) activities in the past seven days; 26 hours on non-agricultural and non-fishing household business, 14 hours on household agricultural activities and 14 hours on casual or part time or ganyu labour.

Table 6. 11 Proportion of persons aged between 15 and 64 years doing different types of tasks past 7 days and average weekly hours worked by background characteristics Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Proportion of people who did various tasks				Average Weekly Hours				
	Income generating tasks	Household agricultural or fishing activities	Non agricultural and non business	Casual, part time or ganyu labour	Wage, salary commission or any payment	Household agricultural or fishing activities	Non agricultural and non fishing business	Casual, part time or ganyu labour	Wage, salary commission or any payment
Malawi	88.5	76.5	11.7	42.4	9.9	13.6	26.3	14.1	37.6
Residence									
Urban	69.1	31.0	18.9	18.3	25.7	12.0	32.3	21.0	40.9
Rural	93.8	88.9	9.7	49.1	5.5	13.7	22.4	13.1	33.3
Region									
North	89.8	78.8	13.5	31.8	10.4	11.7	23.9	13.2	34.0
Central	88.3	76.7	11.2	45.3	8.1	13.7	26.8	14.2	37.4
Southern	88.4	75.6	11.7	41.9	11.6	14.0	26.3	14.1	38.5
Sex									
Male	88.6	76.0	11.9	40.7	10.6	13.9	27.0	14.7	37.8
Female	88.0	77.9	10.8	48.3	7.4	12.3	23.3	12.4	36.9
Age group									
15-24	79.4	72.6	4.9	38.7	3.0	11.4	23.3	12.7	30.3
25-34	92.3	74.9	16.7	46.7	14.5	14.5	27.4	14.9	38.1
35-49	95.9	80.0	17.8	46.0	14.8	14.7	26.6	14.9	39.0
50-64	94.3	85.0	10.1	38.0	11.9	14.7	25.1	13.9	39.2
Education									
None	91.9	84.4	10.4	49.7	4.8	13.5	24.6	13.4	36.0
Primary	85.1	74.3	14.2	35.4	8.0	13.7	28.7	15.7	38.4
Secondary	78.1	54.1	14.6	24.0	22.2	14.1	28.8	17.5	39.1
Tertiary	83.9	26.8	12.9	5.8	68.4	10.3	28.5	21.6	37.1

Table 6.11 continued

Background characteristics	Income generating tasks	Household agricultural or fishing activities	Non agricultural and non business	Casual, part time or ganyu labour	Wage, salary commission or any payment	Household agricultural or fishing activities	Non agricultural and non fishing business	Casual, part time or ganyu labour	Wage, salary commission or any payment
District									
Chitipa	96.9	93.8	12.0	42.1	3.7	11.3	22.8	10.0	27.7
Karonga	91.6	85.4	14.8	31.8	4.7	11.4	23.9	11.4	31.9
Nkhata Bay	93.0	87.4	7.9	29.3	8.6	12.2	13.3	12.5	31.9
Rumphi	94.3	88.8	9.7	34.7	10.0	12.0	17.0	9.6	29.2
Mzimba	93.0	86.5	11.4	33.4	9.9	13.5	22.9	15.9	37.4
Likoma	78.1	58.6	8.5	33.3	11.1	9.3	15.8	13.7	32.9
Mzuzu City	73.3	37.5	23.2	22.4	25.2	8.0	29.0	20.3	37.3
Kasungu	96.8	93.2	8.2	62.3	5.5	13.8	24.3	13.9	29.4
Nkhotakota	87.9	78.7	7.2	39.8	10.0	15.5	29.6	13.1	38.5
Ntchisi	94.8	91.8	6.7	54.1	3.8	14.8	20.2	13.7	28.5
Dowa	96.9	93.3	10.9	58.9	4.2	11.0	18.9	10.5	31.1
Salima	88.9	79.0	8.2	53.1	4.9	15.1	42.8	17.8	41.6
Lilongwe	88.8	83.2	11.1	44.1	3.3	15.4	27.2	14.9	37.5
Mchinji	92.3	87.2	8.1	47.4	4.1	13.8	20.0	13.2	24.0
Dedza	90.6	86.5	6.9	50.3	4.1	14.2	16.4	11.9	29.1
Ntcheu	92.3	86.5	10.3	46.6	4.6	11.1	13.4	10.6	23.1
Lilongwe City	69.6	27.0	21.3	19.3	25.3	14.1	33.5	24.1	42.3
Mangochi	92.3	87.5	6.8	45.5	3.5	15.4	22.6	13.0	37.1
Machinga	96.3	93.4	12.4	43.8	5.0	14.6	27.5	12.1	34.5
Zomba	96.6	94.0	15.9	51.6	4.4	15.6	23.3	16.2	36.0
Chiradzulu	96.2	93.2	8.1	45.5	7.0	12.9	27.0	13.5	40.3
Blantyre	92.2	83.7	12.9	34.3	11.8	14.3	18.7	15.7	39.2
Mwanza	95.4	89.8	14.1	50.1	6.3	15.9	20.5	13.5	34.4
Thyolo	95.7	89.1	9.5	45.3	13.7	12.7	20.8	13.7	38.4
Mulanje	90.1	77.7	14.6	51.7	12.9	11.4	22.3	13.2	35.8
Phalombe	97.8	96.0	9.1	71.6	2.0	9.9	24.8	13.1	25.4
Chikwawa	94.8	85.4	11.3	50.4	8.0	15.0	21.8	14.0	34.7
Nsanje	94.3	89.0	10.3	51.5	6.3	15.9	25.0	14.2	33.3
Balaka	90.5	83.6	11.0	44.9	4.7	15.1	27.7	14.6	36.9
Neno	95.8	90.9	16.8	50.1	7.4	14.7	25.0	12.9	27.7
Zomba City	80.6	50.3	23.1	30.3	29.2	11.0	31.4	15.9	42.1
Blantyre City	58.4	11.5	15.0	10.4	32.3	10.9	33.7	18.7	40.0

6.14 Domestic activities

Information on time spent collecting water and firewood was gathered in this survey. Individuals were asked if they had spent time doing these two household chores in the past 24 hours and, if so, for how many hours. Table 6.12 below shows that 42 percent of population aged between 15 and 64 years participated in collection of water and/or firewood. Analysing data by place of residence, the results show that 45 percent of households in rural areas collected water and/or firewood compared to 29 percent in urban areas.

The survey also showed that 51 percent of females collected water and/or firewood compared to 39 percent of men. Analysing data by education, results show that a high proportion of those with no education (47 percent) collected water and/or firewood compared to 10 percent of those with tertiary education.

Across regions, Northern Region had the highest proportion of persons that collected water and firewood at 54 percent compared to Southern Region at 42 percent and finally Central Region at 39 percent. Table 6.12 further reveals that more time is spent on collecting water than collecting firewood.

Table 6.12 Proportion of persons aged between 15 and 64 years who collected water and firewood and average daily hours worked by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Proportion of persons who collected water and firewood	Average hours spent on		
		Collecting water	Collecting firewood	Total
Malawi	42.0	0.4	0.2	0.6
Residence				
Urban	29.2	0.3	0.1	0.3
Rural	45.4	0.5	0.2	0.7
Region				
North	53.5	0.4	0.2	0.6
Central	39.4	0.4	0.2	0.6
Southern	42.0	0.5	0.2	0.7
Sex				
Male	39.2	0.4	0.2	0.6
Female	51.3	0.5	0.2	0.7
Age group				
15-24	45.0	0.5	0.2	0.6
25-34	43.7	0.4	0.2	0.7
35-49	38.6	0.4	0.2	0.6
50-64	35.2	0.4	0.2	0.5
Education				
None	46.9	0.5	0.2	0.7
Primary	39.0	0.4	0.2	0.5
Secondary	29.3	0.3	0.1	0.4
Tertiary	9.6	0.1	0.0	0.1
District				
Chitipa	67.9	0.6	0.2	0.8
Karonga	64.0	0.5	0.1	0.7
Nkhata Bay	48.4	0.4	0.3	0.7
Rumphi	54.0	0.5	0.2	0.7
Mzimba	50.1	0.3	0.2	0.5
Likoma	37.5	0.3	0.2	0.5
Mzuzu City	36.9	0.2	0.1	0.3
Kasungu	41.7	0.5	0.2	0.7
Nkhotakota	43.7	0.5	0.2	0.6
Ntchisi	45.2	0.4	0.2	0.6
Dowa	41.3	0.5	0.2	0.7
Salima	39.2	0.4	0.2	0.6

Table 6.12 continued

Background characteristics	Proportion of persons who collected water and firewood	Hours collecting water	Hours collecting firewood	Total
Lilongwe	42.4	0.4	0.2	0.6
Mchinji	44.6	0.5	0.3	0.7
Dedza	42.3	0.4	0.2	0.5
Ntcheu	45.4	0.4	0.1	0.5
Lilongwe City	23.1	0.2	0.0	0.2
Mangochi	32.3	0.3	0.2	0.5
Machinga	56.0	0.7	0.4	1.1
Zomba	42.5	0.4	0.4	0.8
Chiradzulu	48.5	0.5	0.2	0.7
Blantyre	41.5	0.4	0.2	0.6
Mwanza	43.8	0.5	0.2	0.7
Thyolo	50.8	0.5	0.2	0.7
Mulanje	47.3	0.5	0.2	0.8
Phalombe	48.4	0.6	0.3	0.9
Chikwawa	47.2	0.7	0.2	0.8
Nsanje	53.7	0.7	0.3	1.0
Balaka	47.0	0.5	0.3	0.8
Neno	49.1	0.6	0.3	0.8
Zomba City	16.3	0.1	0.1	0.2
Blantyre City	25.5	0.2	0.0	0.3

Chapter 7

HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSET OWNERSHIP

7.0 Introduction

The IHS4 collected information on housing characteristics such as the type of dwelling occupied by the households, tenure status and the main building materials of the roof, the wall, and the floor. Apart from housing, information on ownership of household assets and agricultural equipment was also collected. The survey further gathered information on sources of drinking water, toilet facilities and the type of fuel households use for lighting and cooking and also on means of disposal of garbage.

The IHS4 defines a housing or dwelling unit as the living space occupied by a household regardless of the physical arrangement of facilities available. It may be one or more rooms occupied by household members or it may be one, two, or more dwelling units occupied by an extended family.

7.1 Tenure

Table 7.1 shows that 73 percent of all households in Malawi live in owner-occupied dwelling units. Rural households registered a higher proportion (81 percent) of households that own their dwelling units than urban households (39 percent). The proportion of owner-occupied dwelling units was higher in female-headed households (76 percent) relative to male-headed households (72 percent). Northern Region and Central Region have slightly higher proportions (73 percent) of owner-occupied dwelling units compared to Southern Region (73 percent). Across districts, Ntchisi reported the highest proportion (90 percent) of owner-occupied dwelling units while the cities reported the lowest proportions of owner-occupied dwelling units. Among the cities, Blantyre City registered the lowest at 31 percent. The proportion of households that owned their dwelling units decreased as you move from the lowest (81 percent) to highest level of education (27 percent).

Table 7.1. Distribution of household's dwelling units by type of housing tenure by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Owned	Being Purchased	Employer provides	Free, authorized	Free, not authorized	Rented	Total
Malawi	72.9	0.8	2.1	10.8	1.2	12.3	100
Place of residence							
Urban	39.2	1.2	3.3	8.0	0.6	47.7	100
Rural	80.8	0.6	1.9	11.4	1.3	4.0	100
Region							
North	73.2	1.0	3.0	7.7	0.5	14.6	100
Centre	73.2	0.8	1.8	10.6	1.8	11.9	100
South	72.4	0.7	2.3	11.5	0.8	12.2	100
Sex of household head							
Male	71.5	0.8	2.7	9.4	1.1	14.5	100
Female	76.1	0.8	0.9	14.1	1.4	6.8	100
Age of household head							
15-24	60.6	0.2	1.0	23.6	2.3	12.2	100
25-34	64.1	0.6	2.3	11.7	1.2	20.1	100
35-49	72.7	0.7	2.8	8.7	1.2	13.9	100
50-64	82.5	1.3	2.5	7.0	0.6	6.0	100
65+	87.2	0.7	0.6	9.4	1.1	1.0	100
Marital Status of household head							
Never married	34.3	0.2	5.7	20.4	3.0	36.4	100
Married	73.3	0.8	2.4	9.1	1.0	13.4	100
Divorced/Separated	71.3	0.5	1.3	16.5	1.6	8.8	100
Widow/Widower	81.4	0.8	0.8	11.5	1.2	4.2	100
Education Level of household head							
None	80.8	0.6	1.0	10.9	1.2	5.3	100
Primary	72.4	1.0	1.3	11.0	0.7	13.6	100
Secondary	49.6	1.0	5.1	11.0	1.5	31.9	100
Tertiary	26.5	1.5	12.5	6.0	0.6	52.9	100
District							
Chitipa	88.6	0.8	1.7	4.4	0.5	4.0	100
Karonga	83.3	0.1	2.3	4.1	0.7	9.5	100
Nkhata Bay	76.5	0.7	3.4	10.6	0.2	8.6	100
Rumphi	77.1	1.1	4.8	8.6	0.2	8.1	100
Mzimba	73.6	1.3	4.4	14.6	-	6.2	100
Likoma	74.9	1.9	4.9	9.0	-	9.3	100
Mzuzu City	35.7	2.2	2.2	6.1	1.0	52.8	100
Kasungu	79.6	0.2	2.8	10.1	2.8	4.4	100
Nkhotakota	71.3	0.6	6.1	14.1	0.3	7.7	100
Ntchisi	89.8	-	1.5	5.9	-	2.8	100
Dowa	82.0	0.3	2.3	8.8	3.8	2.8	100
Salima	71.0	0.5	0.7	16.8	1.7	9.4	100
Lilongwe	79.3	1.1	1.0	13.1	0.7	4.7	100
Mchinji	78.8	0.5	1.0	13.8	-	5.8	100
Dedza	83.3	0.5	0.8	9.0	3.0	3.4	100
Ntcheu	78.7	1.0	0.9	8.8	5.0	5.5	100

Table 7.1 continued

Background characteristics	Owned	Being Purchased	Employer provides	Free, authorized	Free, not authorized	Rented	Total
Lilongwe City	36.2	1.6	2.6	6.5	0.1	52.9	100
Mangochi	83.9	0.3	-	11.5	0.5	3.8	100
Machinga	85.7	-	0.9	7.7	2.7	3.0	100
Zomba	86.5	0.2	-	10.8	1.9	0.5	100
Chiradzulu	83.9	-	0.2	12.5	-	3.4	100
Blantyre	76.4	0.2	2.9	11.5	0.2	8.7	100
Mwanza	81.3	0.9	2.1	8.9	0.4	6.4	100
Thyolo	77.3	0.2	6.6	10.8	-	5.1	100
Mulanje	74.5	0.5	6.0	10.7	-	8.3	100
Phalombe	87.6	0.8	0.3	9.0	1.0	1.3	100
Chikwawa	65.8	3.0	0.3	19.5	0.4	11.1	100
Nsanje	65.6	3.5	1.8	22.8	0.7	5.5	100
Balaka	80.4	0.3	0.4	7.5	3.2	8.1	100
Neno	77.1	0.5	3.0	12.4	1.5	5.6	100
Zomba City	41.0	0.8	4.3	9.0	1.2	43.7	100
Blantyre City	30.5	0.9	5.3	10.0	0.3	53.1	100

7.2 Type of structure

Materials used for construction of wall and roof for dwellings are classified into three major groups: permanent, semi-permanent and traditional. A permanent structure has a roof made of iron sheets, tiles, concrete or asbestos, and walls made of burnt bricks, concrete or stones. A semi-permanent structure is a mix of permanent and traditional building materials and lacks the construction materials of a permanent structure for walls or the roof. That is, it is built of non-permanent walls such as sun-dried bricks or non-permanent roofing materials such as thatch. Such a description would apply to a structure made of red bricks and cement mortar, but roofed with grass thatching. A traditional structure is made from traditional housing construction materials such as unfired mud brick, grass thatching for roofs or rough poles for roof beams.

Table 7.2 shows that 38 percent of the main dwelling units in Malawi were traditional structure, 36 percent were semi-permanent structures and 27 percent were permanent structures. In urban areas, 56 percent of households occupied permanent dwelling units as compared to 20 percent in rural areas. The table further shows that the majority of households (44 percent) in rural areas occupied traditional dwelling units. Across districts, the cities registered the highest proportion of households living in permanent dwelling structures as compared to all other districts. Blantyre City registered the highest proportion of households living in permanent dwelling units at 68 percent.

Results further show that 29 percent of male-headed households occupied permanent dwelling units as compared to 22 percent of female-headed households. It can also be observed that the level of education of the head of household is directly related to the type of structure of the main dwelling unit that household members occupy. The proportion of households which occupied permanent dwelling structures increased with higher levels of education from the lowest at 17 percent to highest level of education at 92 percent.

Table 7.2. Percentage distribution of household's main dwelling units by type of structure by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Permanent	Semi-permanent	Traditional	Total
Malawi	26.7	35.9	37.5	100
Place of residence				
Urban	56.4	33.7	9.9	100
Rural	19.7	36.4	44.0	100
Region				
North	42.4	34.2	23.4	100
Centre	21.3	36.4	42.3	100
South	28.7	35.7	35.6	100
Sex of household head				
Male	28.6	35.9	35.5	100
Female	22.0	35.8	42.2	100
Age of household head				
15-24	14.1	28.4	57.4	100
25-34	24.2	35.0	40.8	100
35-49	30.3	37.9	31.8	100
50-64	32.5	36.6	30.9	100
65+	24.2	36.9	38.9	100
Marital Status of household head				
Never married	42.6	29.2	28.2	100
Married	28.1	36.0	35.8	100
Divorced/Separated	17.3	36.0	46.7	100
Widow/Widower	24.7	36.3	39.0	100
Education Level of household head				
None	17.3	37.8	45.0	100
Primary	30.2	40.2	29.6	100
Secondary	49.7	31.5	18.7	100
Tertiary	92.4	6.4	1.1	100
District				
Chitipa	28.2	38.8	33.0	100
Karonga	38.5	34.3	27.3	100
Nkhata Bay	49.2	35.0	15.8	100
Rumphi	39.6	30.8	29.6	100
Mzimba	33.3	42.8	23.9	100
Likoma	48.3	31.2	20.4	100
Mzuzu City	67.0	23.9	9.1	100

Table 7.2 continued

Background characteristics	Permanent	Semi-permanent	Traditional	Total
Kasungu	17.2	37.4	45.5	100
Nkhotakota	28.4	42.1	29.5	100
Ntchisi	10.9	34.8	54.3	100
Dowa	21.7	30.7	47.6	100
Salima	14.9	37.7	47.4	100
Lilongwe	15.9	29.0	55.1	100
Mchinji	12.9	52.5	34.5	100
Dedza	15.5	29.9	54.6	100
Ntcheu	22.6	33.9	43.4	100
Lilongwe City	43.5	45.3	11.3	100
Mangochi	15.5	17.0	67.5	100
Machinga	15.0	38.7	46.4	100
Zomba	16.3	43.8	39.8	100
Chiradzulu	21.9	46.4	31.7	100
Blantyre	30.2	34.3	35.4	100
Mwanza	22.2	33.5	44.3	100
Thyolo	22.9	50.3	26.7	100
Mulanje	30.2	45.3	24.4	100
Phalombe	5.7	51.5	42.7	100
Chikwawa	33.7	33.8	32.5	100
Nsanje	35.1	30.1	34.8	100
Balaka	22.5	33.2	44.4	100
Neno	19.9	30.1	50.0	100
Zomba City	64.0	25.1	10.9	100
Blantyre City	68.4	28.4	3.2	100

7.3 Room occupancy rate and overcrowding

A dwelling unit is considered to provide a sufficient living area for the household members if there are fewer than four people per habitable room (unstats.un.org/stgs). Table 7.3 provides information on the distribution of households by number of persons per room by background characteristics.

Eighty seven percent of the households in Malawi had less than four persons per room. Ninety percent of households in urban areas had an average of less than four persons per room while for the rural areas, this was at 86 percent. Table 7.3 reveals that the proportion of households with less than four persons per room was higher in female-headed households at 89 percent than male-headed households at 86 percent. At the regional level, Northern Region reported the highest proportion (95 percent) of households with less than four persons per room followed by Central at 87 percent and then Southern Region at 86 percent. Across the districts, Likoma registered the highest proportion of households with less than four persons per room (98 percent) while Neno registered the least with 74 percent.

Table 7.3 Percentage Distribution of households by number of persons per room by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Number of persons per room				
	1	2	3	4	Total
Malawi	23.1	42.5	21.5	12.9	100
Place of residence					
Urban	23.2	45.4	21.3	10.1	100
Rural	23.1	41.8	21.5	13.6	100
Region					
North	34.2	47.1	13.7	5.0	100
Centre	21.4	42.0	22.3	14.4	100
South	22.6	42.0	22.3	13.1	100
Sex of household head					
Male	19.2	43.1	23.8	13.8	100
Female	32.7	40.8	15.9	10.6	100
Age of household head					
15-24	31.4	39.6	22.8	6.2	100
25-34	17.6	44.0	22.6	15.8	100
35-49	13.1	44.4	25.8	16.7	100
50-64	27.6	43.6	18.4	10.4	100
65+	47.9	35.2	11.3	5.7	100
Marital Status of household head					
Never married	77.0	15.4	4.8	2.8	100
Married	14.7	45.5	25.0	14.8	100
Divorced/Separated	33.3	38.9	16.0	11.8	100
Widow/Widower	45.7	35.9	12.3	6.2	100
Education Level of household head					
None	22.8	40.6	22.2	14.4	100
Primary	21.2	47.0	20.7	11.1	100
Secondary	23.0	46.2	20.9	9.9	100
Tertiary	35.5	48.0	12.2	4.3	100
District					
Chitipa	37.7	46.6	11.9	3.8	100
Karonga	39.6	49.9	7.9	2.6	100
Nkhata Bay	23.3	43.7	24.8	8.3	100
Rumphi	33.7	49.7	12.3	4.4	100
Mzimba	33.4	42.6	14.2	9.8	100
Likoma	31.1	57.7	8.8	2.4	100
Mzuzu City	34.2	48.0	14.9	2.9	100
Kasungu	21.9	40.9	24.4	12.8	100
Nkhotakota	21.9	45.9	20.2	12.0	100
Ntchisi	24.2	46.5	18.6	10.7	100
Dowa	22.8	43.9	20.1	13.2	100
Salima	25.9	41.5	20.9	11.6	100

Table 7.3 continued

Background characteristics	1	2	3	4	Total
Lilongwe	20.1	41.2	22.9	15.8	100
Mchinji	14.8	39.4	24.3	21.5	100
Dedza	24.2	38.2	21.5	16.1	100
Ntcheu	27.0	35.5	20.0	17.6	100
Lilongwe City	17.2	48.2	24.4	10.2	100
Mangochi	13.8	35.1	29.2	21.9	100
Machinga	17.0	35.5	29.1	18.4	100
Zomba	20.8	39.2	25.0	15.0	100
Chiradzulu	30.0	47.2	18.6	4.3	100
Blantyre	28.2	47.1	16.5	8.2	100
Mwanza	15.9	31.7	27.9	24.6	100
Thyolo	29.2	43.8	19.7	7.4	100
Mulanje	27.7	48.2	18.3	5.8	100
Phalombe	25.0	51.7	14.9	8.3	100
Chikwawa	23.8	49.2	17.2	9.8	100
Nsanje	26.5	39.4	21.8	12.3	100
Balaka	22.5	35.9	23.0	18.6	100
Neno	16.2	28.3	29.3	26.2	100
Zomba City	21.8	45.8	22.3	10.1	100
Blantyre City	20.7	42.7	22.0	14.6	100

7.4 Access to safe drinking water

The importance of access to safe drinking water is underlined by the fact that it is one of the SDGs and MGDSIII indicators. A household is considered to have access to safe drinking water if the source of water is piped into the dwelling, piped into the yard or plot, a communal standpipe, a protected well in yard or plot, protected public well, borehole only in rural areas, tanker truck or bowser and bottled water.

Table 7.4 shows that about 87 percent of households in Malawi have access to an improved water source. The proportion of urban households with access to improved water sources was higher than that of rural households (93 percent and 86 percent, respectively). In terms of sex of the household head, no difference has been noted between female-headed households and male-headed households with both reporting 87 percent of population having access to improved water sources.

In terms of districts, almost all the districts in Malawi registered more than half of their households having access to safe water. Nsanje had the highest proportion of households with access to safe water at 96 percent and Thyolo registered the lowest at 62 percent.

Looking at individual sources of drinking water, it can be observed that the main source of drinking water in the country was the borehole with 63 percent. The highest proportion (75

percent) of households was observed in the households from the rural areas with those in the urban areas at 14 percent. Stand pipes into yard or communal pipes became second with 17 percent of the total population and the highest proportion (61 percent) was reported for the households in the urban areas. At district level, Likoma registered the highest proportion (86 percent) of the population that was drinking water from stand pipes. More than half of the population from our cities reported that they were drinking water from stand pipes into yard or communal pipes.

Table 7. 4 Proportion of households with access to safe water and main source of drinking water by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Proportion with access to improved water source	Main source of drinking water							Total
		Borehole	Piped into yard/plot/communal standpipe	Protected well in yard/plot/public well	Piped into dwelling	Open well in yard/plot/open public well	Spring/River/Stream/Dam/Pond/Lake/Rain water	Other	
Malawi	87.1	63.3	17.1	3.6	3.2	8.3	4.3	0.3	100
Place of residence									
Urban	93.1	14.2	61.0	3.1	14.9	4.7	0.9	1.3	100
Rural	85.7	74.8	6.7	3.7	0.5	9.1	5.1	0.1	100
Region									
North	87.5	52.1	27.8	3.4	4.2	5.0	7.3	0.2	100
Centre	85.9	65.3	13.5	4.6	2.5	10.1	3.8	0.2	100
South	88.2	63.6	18.4	2.6	3.7	7.2	4.2	0.3	100
Sex of household head									
Male	87.1	61.9	18.3	3.3	3.5	8.1	4.5	0.3	100
Female	87.3	66.7	14.1	4.1	2.5	8.6	3.8	0.3	100
Age of household head									
15-24	86.2	67.4	14.8	3.7	0.3	9.8	4.0	0.0	100
25-34	87.4	60.3	20.5	3.4	3.1	8.0	4.1	0.5	100
35-49	88.7	62.3	19.1	3.2	4.0	7.0	3.9	0.4	100
50-64	86.3	62.5	14.9	4.0	4.9	9.6	4.1	0.1	100
65+	84.50	69.5	9.6	4.0	1.3	9.3	6.1	0.1	100
Marital Status of household head									
Never married	90.4	44.9	32.6	2.6	10.3	6.4	3.2	0.1	100
Married	87.2	62.9	17.5	3.5	3.3	8.1	4.3	0.3	100
Divorced/Separated	86.1	66.2	14.1	3.8	1.9	9.2	4.7	0.1	100
Widow/Widower	87.1	66.7	13.9	4.1	2.3	8.7	3.9	0.4	100

Table 7.4 continued

Background characteristics	Proportion with access to improved water source	Borehole	Piped into yard/plot/communal standpipe	Protected well in yard/plot/public well	Piped into dwelling	Open well in yard/plot/open public well	Spring/River/Stream/Dam/Pond/Lake/Rain water	Other	Total
None	85.7	70.4	11.0	3.8	0.5	9.0	5.2	0.2	100
Primary	86.1	61.3	19.4	3.9	1.5	9.5	3.4	1.0	100
Secondary	91.8	44.2	38.5	3.1	6.0	5.7	2.0	0.5	100
Tertiary	97.1	18.5	30.6	0.4	47.5	2.6	0.3	0.1	100
District									
Chitipa	78.7	63.1	15.0	5.3	0.5	4.6	11.4	-	100
Karonga	91.7	68.7	19.0	2.8	4.0	2.5	2.5	0.5	100
Nkhata Bay	77.6	61.6	14.9	1.3	1.2	7.9	13.1	-	100
Rumphi	81.4	33.6	44.1	3.1	3.7	6.0	9.5	-	100
Mzimba	83.1	72.3	10.5	2.7	0.3	5.5	8.5	0.1	100
Likoma	90.5	0.4	85.7	0.4	4.3	0.8	8.4	-	100
Mzuzu City	87.6	7.1	65.1	5.2	15.4	5.1	1.5	0.7	100
Kasungu	66.7	62.0	4.7	6.3	-	19.7	7.1	0.3	100
Nkhotakota	83.9	67.0	13.9	2.6	3.0	7.3	5.9	0.3	100
Ntchisi	86.8	74.1	11.4	0.7	1.4	7.1	5.4	-	100
Dowa	70.5	68.9	1.2	4.5	0.4	17.7	6.8	0.5	100
Salima	87.6	82.4	2.9	2.0	2.4	6.1	4.2	-	100
Lilongwe	83.7	81.5	1.9	3.5	0.3	9.4	3.4	-	100
Mchinji	79.1	75.0	3.2	11.2	0.9	9.4	0.3	-	100
Dedza	75.8	72.1	3.2	7.3	0.5	13.0	3.8	-	100
Ntcheu	90.2	74.9	14.3	3.0	1.0	3.6	3.2	-	100
Lilongwe City	92.2	15.3	64.2	3.2	12.6	3.2	0.5	1.0	100
Mangochi	87.9	79.9	7.7	1.2	0.3	4.3	6.6	-	100
Machinga	81.2	70.8	10.1	4.5	0.2	13.6	0.8	-	100
Zomba	83.0	72.6	10.1	2.8	0.3	11.5	2.4	0.3	100
Chiradzulu	89.2	86.0	3.1	3.1	-	6.0	1.5	0.2	100
Blantyre	91.5	85.6	4.4	1.6	1.5	5.9	1.0	-	100
Mwanza	83.3	76.0	5.4	1.2	1.9	9.3	5.4	0.8	100
Thyolo	62.0	58.0	3.2	7.6	0.8	21.1	9.2	-	100
Mulanje	84.2	62.1	18.5	4.7	3.6	6.7	4.4	-	100
Phalombe	90.9	62.4	28.3	1.1	0.2	3.6	4.4	-	100
Chikwawa	86.5	73.9	11.6	0.4	1.0	2.9	10.2	-	100
Nsanje	95.6	91.6	1.4	0.5	2.5	1.8	2.1	-	100
Balaka	89.4	74.6	12.5	1.7	2.4	4.9	3.8	0.2	100
Neno	73.5	72.3	0.8	1.6	0.5	14.1	10.8	-	100
Zomba City	94.1	4.4	54.7	0.3	35.0	2.8	0.2	2.5	100
Blantyre City	94.1	5.0	72.8	1.6	16.3	2.2	0.3	1.8	100

7.5 Source of Fuels used for Cooking

Table 7.5 shows the distribution of households by main source of fuel: firewood, electricity, charcoal, crop residue, saw dust, animal waste, or other, which includes gas and paraffin. Various types of solid materials are used as fuel to produce energy and provide heating, usually released through combustion and these are referred to as solid fuels. The table shows that almost all households (98 percent) were using solid fuels for cooking in Malawi.

A remarkable difference can be observed when we consider the place of residence, almost all households in rural areas reported that there were using solid fuels as compared to 90 percent in urban areas. The results also show that the proportion of male and female-headed households reported using solid fuels was equal at 98 percent.

The most common source of cooking fuel in the country was firewood at 81 percent, followed by charcoal (16 percent), electricity (2 percent) and crop residue for cooking at 1 percent. The proportion of households in rural areas using firewood as a source of fuel for cooking was at 93 percent while in urban areas it was at 28 percent. The main source of cooking fuel in urban areas households was charcoal at 62 percent. Table 7.5 also reveals that Central Region had the highest proportion of households that were using firewood as cooking fuel at 84 percent followed by Northern Region 79 percent and Southern Region at 78 percent.

Table 7.5. Proportion of households by main source of fuel for cooking by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Proportion using solid fuel	Firewood	Charcoal	Electricity	Crop residue/Saw dust	Other	Total
Malawi	98.0	80.5	16.0	1.9	1.4	0.1	100
Place of residence							
Urban	90.3	27.9	62.2	9.4	0.3	0.3	100
Rural	99.7	92.9	5.2	0.2	1.7	0.1	100
Region							
North	98.3	78.5	19.8	1.6	-	0.1	100
Centre	98.6	83.9	14.3	1.4	0.4	0.0	100
South	97.3	77.6	17.0	2.5	2.7	0.2	100
Sex of household head							
Male	97.8	78.6	18.0	2.1	1.2	0.1	100
Female	98.3	85.1	11.2	1.6	1.9	0.1	100
Age of household head							
15-24	99.6	83.8	14.8	0.3	1.0	0.0	100
25-34	98.0	73.0	23.6	1.9	1.4	0.1	100
35-49	97.1	79.0	16.8	2.8	1.3	0.1	100
50-64	97.6	84.7	11.7	2.2	1.2	0.2	100
65+	99.0	90.9	5.8	0.7	2.4	0.2	100

Table 7.5 continued

Background characteristics	Proportion using solid fuel	Firewood	Charcoal	Electricity	Crop residue/Saw dust	Other	Total
Marital Status of household head							
Never married	91.1	47.9	43.2	8.9	-	0.0	100
Married	98.0	80.0	16.7	1.9	1.3	0.1	100
Divorced/Separated	98.6	85.8	11.4	1.4	1.5	0.0	100
Widow/Widower	98.4	85.3	10.9	1.2	2.2	0.4	100
Education Level of household head							
None	99.8	90.4	7.6	0.1	1.8	0.1	100
Primary	99.4	78.6	20.1	0.5	0.7	0.0	100
Secondary	96.4	54.4	41.4	3.4	0.6	0.2	100
Tertiary	65.1	14.4	50.7	34.4	-	0.5	100
District							
Chitipa	99.5	92.2	7.3	0.3	-	0.3	100
Karonga	99.2	82.6	16.6	0.8	-	-	100
Nkhata Bay	99.7	95.8	4.0	0.3	-	-	100
Rumphu	98.5	87.6	10.9	1.5	-	-	100
Mzimba	99.0	90.4	8.5	0.7	-	0.3	100
Likoma	96.2	84.9	11.3	3.8	-	-	100
Mzuzu City	93.6	22.4	71.2	6.4	-	-	100
Kasungu	100.0	95.6	4.4	-	-	-	100
Nkhotakota	98.3	86.1	11.9	1.7	0.2	-	100
Ntchisi	99.8	96.1	3.7	0.2	-	-	100
Dowa	99.6	93.6	5.0	0.4	1.0	-	100
Salima	99.8	89.0	10.3	0.2	0.5	-	100
Lilongwe	99.8	94.7	4.9	0.2	0.2	-	100
Mchinji	100.0	93.3	6.7	-	-	-	100
Dedza	99.8	96.2	3.0	-	0.6	0.2	100
Ntcheu	99.6	91.4	8.2	0.4	-	-	100
Lilongwe City	91.9	27.5	63.7	8.1	0.7	-	100
Mangochi	100.0	91.0	9.0	-	-	-	100
Machinga	100.0	94.2	5.8	-	-	-	100
Zomba	99.7	96.0	2.4	-	1.3	0.3	100
Chiradzulu	99.3	89.0	4.4	-	5.9	0.7	100
Blantyre	98.5	83.6	13.9	1.5	1.0	-	100
Mwanza	99.2	86.5	12.7	0.8	-	-	100
Thyolo	100.0	93.4	4.0	-	2.5	-	100
Mulanje	98.9	76.1	10.3	0.9	12.5	0.2	100
Phalombe	100.0	81.6	1.6	-	16.7	-	100
Chikwawa	99.7	85.8	13.6	0.3	0.3	-	100
Nsanje	99.5	92.1	7.5	0.5	-	-	100
Balaka	100.0	87.3	12.7	-	-	-	100
Neno	100.0	91.9	7.9	-	0.2	-	100
Zomba City	86.0	42.9	43.0	13.7	-	0.3	100
Blantyre City	83.6	10.7	72.9	15.5	-	0.9	100

7.6 Source of fuels used for lighting

Table 7.6 shows that the most common source of lighting fuel was torches at 75 percent, seconded by electricity at 11 percent and candles were third at 6 percent. Rural areas reported a higher proportion of households using torches as their source of lighting fuel at 85 percent while urban households were at 35 percent. The table further reveals that the most common source of fuel for lighting in urban areas was electricity, registering 42 percent. The proportion of male-headed households using torches as lighting fuel was slightly higher than that of female-headed households at 76 and 73 percent, respectively. Across the regions, Central Region registered the highest proportion of households using torches as lighting fuel at 80 percent while the North came second at 73 percent and then the South at 71 percent. Across districts, cities registered the highest proportion of households using electricity as a source of fuel for lighting with Blantyre city being the highest, registering 63 percent seconded by Mzuzu city at 53 percent.

The table further reveals that the proportion of households using electricity as a source of lighting increased as you move from the lowest (3.1 percent) to highest level of education (78 percent).

Table 7. 6 Percentage Distribution of households by main source of fuels used for lighting by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Battery Dry Cell (Torch)	Electricity	Candles	Paraffin	Firewood	Other	Total
Malawi	75.2	10.7	5.7	2.4	1.8	4.2	100
Place of residence							
Urban	35.2	42.3	18.6	2.2	0.3	1.4	100
Rural	84.6	3.3	2.6	2.4	2.1	4.9	100
Region							
North	73.2	15.8	4.5	0.3	1.8	4.4	100
Centre	80.2	7.1	5.5	0.4	1.3	5.4	100
South	70.8	13.2	6.1	4.7	2.1	3.1	100
Sex of household head							
Male	76.0	11.9	5.7	2.0	1.3	3.3	100
Female	73.3	7.9	5.7	3.4	3.0	6.6	100
Age of household head							
15-24	84.6	4.6	5.8	1.3	0.5	3.1	100
25-34	74.9	12.2	7.2	1.7	1.2	2.9	100
35-49	74.2	13.4	6.1	2.2	1.3	2.9	100
50-64	74.3	11.1	4.1	3.8	1.7	5.0	100
65+	72.6	4.9	3.6	3.3	5.2	10.3	100

Table 7.6 continued

Background characteristics	Battery Dry Cell (Torch)	Electricity	Candles	Paraffin	Firewood	Other	Total
Marital Status of household head							
Never married	59.3	25.2	10.9	0.8	1.8	2.1	100
Married	76.8	11.6	5.2	2.0	1.2	3.1	100
Divorced/Separated	76.4	5.1	7.1	3.6	2.0	5.9	100
Widow/Widower	68.8	8.5	5.6	3.4	4.5	9.2	100
Education Level of household head							
None	82.3	3.1	4.6	2.6	2.2	5.2	100
Primary	76.2	9.3	7.8	2.5	1.0	3.2	100
Secondary	57.5	29.1	9.4	1.8	0.5	1.6	100
Tertiary	17.3	77.8	3.2	-	0.2	1.6	100
District							
Chitipa	86.6	4.4	0.7	0.3	4.6	3.5	100
Karonga	83.3	10.8	1.4	-	1.4	3.2	100
Nkhata Bay	83.3	6.3	3.7	0.8	0.9	5.0	100
Rumphi	80.1	10.1	1.9	0.8	2.4	4.8	100
Mzimba	73.8	10.3	3.4	0.2	1.8	10.3	100
Likoma	54.4	42.8	0.8	-	1.2	0.8	100
Mzuzu City	28.6	53.3	17.2	-	-	0.8	100
Kasungu	87.2	2.0	1.5	-	1.1	8.2	100
Nkhotakota	83.0	8.7	3.3	0.2	1.7	3.1	100
Ntchisi	80.5	3.5	2.5	-	2.7	10.8	100
Dowa	86.2	2.8	1.2	0.3	0.7	8.7	100
Salima	84.7	5.2	1.1	0.3	2.5	6.2	100
Lilongwe	87.3	2.1	3.0	0.1	2.2	5.2	100
Mchinji	88.1	3.9	2.9	0.2	0.8	4.1	100
Dedza	86.8	1.0	4.2	0.7	0.9	6.5	100
Ntcheu	88.2	4.5	3.1	0.3	2.0	1.9	100
Lilongwe City	43.7	30.5	22.6	1.4	-	1.9	100
Mangochi	92.5	2.4	1.1	1.3	0.8	2.0	100
Machinga	88.7	2.1	0.2	-	1.5	7.5	100
Zomba	85.5	0.3	3.5	3.2	2.4	5.1	100
Chiradzulu	74.1	4.1	5.3	12.9	1.0	2.7	100
Blantyre	64.3	6.7	15.2	10.3	0.1	3.4	100
Mwanza	76.1	8.8	6.4	1.3	1.3	6.1	100
Thyolo	75.1	5.3	4.1	7.8	2.4	5.4	100
Mulanje	66.5	12.8	3.8	13.0	0.8	3.1	100
Phalombe	90.4	0.4	0.9	1.3	2.2	4.8	100
Chikwawa	81.6	5.9	3.5	0.5	6.8	1.6	100
Nsanje	77.6	6.1	0.9	0.2	14.1	1.2	100
Balaka	84.3	7.7	2.3	1.7	2.4	1.6	100
Neno	83.8	3.5	4.3	0.8	2.3	5.4	100
Zomba City	34.8	43.8	18.9	1.4	0.4	0.7	100
Blantyre City	10.2	63.3	21.3	4.3	0.3	0.6	100

7.7 Access to electricity and phones

Table 7.7 compares the proportion of households with electricity in dwelling, landlines and mobile phones for the IHS4 (2016/17) to the IHS3 (2010/11). The table reveals that the proportion of households with electricity in the dwelling increased from 8 percent in 2010/11 to 11 percent in 2016/17.

Considering only the IHS4, the proportion of households with electricity in urban areas was much higher (42 percent) than in rural areas (3 percent). The proportion of male-headed households with electricity in dwelling was higher (12 percent) than female-headed households (8 percent).

Table 7.7 also reveals that there were more households with mobile phones than with landlines. Forty-eight percent of households reported having a mobile phone while less than 1 percent of households reported having a landline telephone. It can also be observed that the proportion of the population with landline telephones dropped by 0.6 percent from 0.8 percent in 2010/11 to 0.2 percent in 2016/17. On the other hand, the proportion of the population with mobile phones increased from 36 percent in 2010/11 to 48 percent in 2016/17. Urban areas registered a higher proportion of households (81 percent) with mobile phones than in rural areas (40 percent).

In case of sex of the household head, the proportion of male-headed households having mobile phones was higher than that of females at 53 and 34 percent, respectively.

Table 7.7. Proportion of households with electricity in dwelling units, landline and mobile phones by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Electricity in dwelling		Landline Telephone		Mobile Phones	
	2011	2017	2011	2017	2011	2017
Malawi	7.6	10.7	0.8	0.2	36.0	47.5
Place of residence						
Urban	33.0	42.3	4.4	0.9	73.0	81.0
Rural	2.4	3.2	0.1	0.0	29.5	39.6
Region						
North	6.3	15.9	0.4	0.3	41.4	64.4
Centre	5.9	7.1	0.6	0.1	38.2	47.2
South	8.5	13.0	1.1	0.2	33.2	44.4
Sex of household head						
Male	7.8	11.9	0.9	0.2	40.1	53.0
Female	5.0	7.6	0.5	0.2	24.3	34.3

Table 7.8 continued

Background characteristics	2011	2017	2011	2017	2011	2017
Age of household head						
15-24	3.5	4.7	0.0	-	28.5	37.5
25-34	8.2	12.1	0.4	0.1	42.0	51.7
35-49	9.4	13.3	1.3	0.2	42.0	56.3
50-64	5.7	11.3	1.1	0.6	33.5	47.3
65+	3.4	4.9	0.4	0.0	17.1	24.7
Marital Status of household head						
Never married	25.6	25.4	0.6	0.1	53.3	62.4
Married	7.2	11.5	0.8	0.2	40.1	53.1
Divorced/Separated	3.0	5.1	0.3	0.0	22.7	32.8
Widow/Widower	5.8	8.6	0.8	0.2	21.3	28.7
Education Level of household head						
None	4.6	3.6	0.3	0.0	31.8	37.1
Primary	11.9	10.2	1.8	0.0	53.3	61.8
Secondary	31.5	31.6	4.7	0.7	73.5	82.0
Tertiary	55.8	77.9	9.5	2.1	94.3	97.8
District						
Chitipa	2.2	3.8	-	-	21.2	37.6
Karonga	3.1	10.8	-	-	32.6	62.0
Nkhata Bay	3.2	6.6	0.2	-	48.3	68.6
Rumphi	6.4	10.3	-	0.2	54.6	60.0
Mzimba	1.9	10.8	-	0.3	35.5	65.6
Likoma	***	42.1	***	4.5	***	65.3
Mzuzu City	41.7	53.5	3.8	1.1	84.6	93.8
Kasungu	2.1	1.8	-	-	43.6	48.2
Nkhotakota	3.4	8.7	-	0.3	44.9	60.6
Ntchisi	1.9	4.1	-	-	24.9	48.2
Dowa	5.1	2.8	0.6	-	37.3	41.8
Salima	1.9	4.9	0.5	-	31.3	33.9
Lilongwe	4.1	1.8	-	-	29.8	37.3
Mchinji	4.9	3.6	-	-	30.5	52.0
Dedza	1.6	1.0	-	-	18.8	30.7
Ntcheu	3.1	4.9	0.2	0.4	39.0	35.0
Lilongwe City	22.7	30.9	3.5	0.6	73.5	82.4
Mangochi	1.7	2.4	0.2	-	21.2	37.1
Machinga	1.4	2.1	0.3	-	16.9	40.4
Zomba	2.7	0.3	0.3	-	36.5	38.6
Chiradzulu	4.9	3.7	0.5	-	33.5	31.8
Blantyre	5.5	6.7	0.2	-	38.3	46.4
Mwanza	8.3	8.8	-	0.3	26.8	42.9
Thyolo	3.9	5.0	0.3	-	30.4	36.5
Mulanje	2.9	12.0	0.3	-	27.3	37.6
Phalombe	2.0	0.4	0.6	-	16.8	24.3
Chikwawa	1.3	6.4	-	-	19.6	34.7
Nsanje	3.0	6.1	-	-	17.8	34.0
Balaka	3.4	7.7	-	-	35.3	49.3
Neno	2.1	3.7	-	-	28.1	43.6
Zomba City	38.4	44.0	7.7	2.1	79.2	83.2
Blantyre City	20.4	62.9	6.1	1.4	73.6	84.5

7.8 Access to proper sanitation

Table 7.8 shows that 71 percent of households in Malawi had improved toilet facilities in 2016/17. They reported to have a flush toilet, a VIP latrine or a traditional latrine with a roof. The proportion was higher in urban areas at 81 percent than in rural areas at 68 percent. The proportion of male-headed households having improved toilet sanitation facilities was higher (73 percent) compared to female-headed households (64 percent).

Across regions, the Northern Region reported the highest proportion of households with improved toilet sanitation at 77 percent followed by the Central Region at 71 percent and then the Southern Region at 69 percent. On the other hand, it is also important to note that 9 percent of households in Malawi did not have any type of toilet facility. Eleven percent of rural households reported not to have any type of toilet facility compared to only 2 percent of urban households. The survey also revealed that 14 percent of female-headed households did not have a toilet facility while only 7 percent of male-headed households did not have a toilet facility.

Table 7.8. Proportion of households with improved sanitation and type of toilet facility being used by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Proportion of access improved to sanitation	Type of toilet facility						Total
		Flush Toilet	VIP latrine	Traditional latrine with roof	Latrine without roof	None	Other	
Malawi	70.5	3.1	2.4	65.1	20.5	8.9	0.1	100
Place of residence								
Urban	80.6	14.4	7.5	58.7	17.6	1.8	0.1	100
Rural	68.2	0.5	1.2	66.6	21.2	10.5	0.1	100
Region								
North	77.1	3.2	6.2	67.7	16.7	6.0	0.1	100
Centre	70.9	2.4	2.7	65.8	18.5	10.5	0.1	100
South	68.9	3.8	1.3	63.8	23.1	7.9	0.1	100
Sex of household head								
Male	73.4	3.4	2.7	67.4	19.6	6.9	0.1	100
Female	63.5	2.5	1.6	59.4	22.7	13.7	0.1	100
Age of household head								
15-24	62.5	0.5	1.5	60.5	22.7	14.8	0.1	100
25-34	69.8	2.9	2.6	64.2	20.4	9.7	0.1	100
35-49	72.7	4.0	2.7	66.0	19.9	7.3	0.1	100
50-64	74.3	4.3	2.8	67.2	19.3	6.3	0.1	100
65+	67.8	1.7	1.2	65.0	22.0	10.0	0.2	100
Marital Status of household head								
Never married	75.6	11.4	5.4	58.8	13.9	10.5	-	100
Married	73.4	3.1	2.6	67.7	20.0	6.5	0.1	100
Divorced/Separated	60.9	2.1	1.7	57.1	22.6	16.5	-	100
Widow/Widower	64.1	2.2	1.5	60.5	22.4	13.4	0.2	100
Education Level of household head								
None	66.1	0.3	1.1	64.6	23.1	10.7	0.1	100
Primary	73.2	1.2	2.4	69.6	19.4	7.1	0.3	100
Secondary	82.4	6.0	6.6	69.8	13.9	3.7	0.0	100
Tertiary	95.4	48.5	8.4	38.5	3.2	1.3	-	100

Table 7.8 continued

Background characteristics	Proportion of access improved to sanitation	Flush Toilet	VIP latrine	Traditional latrine with roof	Latrine without roof	None	Other	Total
District								
Chitipa	78.9	0.8	6.0	72.1	16.9	4.2	-	100
Karonga	69.6	2.1	8.4	59.1	20.3	10.1	-	100
Nkhata Bay	70.2	0.3	2.2	67.7	21.8	7.7	0.3	100
Rumphi	79.8	4.2	2.5	73.2	15.8	4.4	-	100
Mzimba	82.0	0.6	3.4	78.0	11.5	5.9	0.6	100
Likoma	77.1	2.6	4.8	69.8	19.6	3.2	-	100
Mzuzu City	86.2	11.6	13.0	61.6	12.2	1.6	-	100
Kasungu	73.3	0.2	1.3	71.8	15.0	11.6	0.2	100
Nkhotakota	85.0	5.7	2.8	76.5	10.1	3.8	1.1	100
Ntchisi	87.1	0.7	1.3	85.1	8.3	4.5	-	100
Dowa	72.1	1.0	2.3	68.8	12.8	15.1	-	100
Salima	66.6	1.6	1.6	63.4	18.1	15.3	-	100
Lilongwe	63.6	0.1	1.1	62.4	23.1	13.3	-	100
Mchinji	59.7	0.4	2.3	57.0	24.4	15.9	-	100
Dedza	66.6	-	-	66.6	24.0	9.5	-	100
Ntcheu	71.4	0.3	1.4	69.7	17.6	10.7	0.3	100
Lilongwe City	80.6	12.0	10.3	58.4	18.2	1.2	-	100
Mangochi	62.3	0.6	0.8	60.9	34.6	3.1	-	100
Machinga	51.8	-	0.2	51.6	37.5	10.5	0.2	100
Zomba	65.2	0.2	1.3	63.8	24.8	10.0	-	100
Chiradzulu	66.7	-	-	66.7	24.6	8.3	0.4	100
Blantyre	66.1	1.5	1.2	63.4	27.6	6.2	-	100
Mwanza	68.6	2.0	2.3	64.3	18.3	12.5	0.5	100
Thyolo	76.4	0.4	0.4	75.6	13.2	10.4	-	100
Mulanje	77.0	3.2	4.0	69.9	11.1	11.9	-	100
Phalombe	66.5	0.2	-	66.4	20.5	12.9	-	100
Chikwawa	71.0	0.7	0.3	70.0	17.0	12.1	-	100
Nsanje	51.7	1.6	-	50.1	29.0	19.3	-	100
Balaka	68.9	-	1.8	67.2	25.6	5.5	-	100
Neno	68.8	0.3	1.7	66.8	20.2	11.0	-	100
Zomba City	90.6	25.3	9.3	56.0	8.8	0.6	-	100
Blantyre City	82.5	20.8	2.6	59.1	16.4	0.8	0.3	100

7.9 Use of disposal facilities

Table 7.9 shows that 51 percent of households in Malawi reported using rubbish pits as a means of disposing garbage. The proportion of urban households that reported to be using rubbish pits as a means of disposing garbage was higher than the proportion of rural households using rubbish pits (58 percent and 50 percent, respectively). At the district level, Mzuzu city reported the highest proportion of households who used rubbish pits (75 percent).

Table 7.9 further reveals that 53 percent of male-headed households were using rubbish pits as a means of garbage disposal as compared to 47 percent female-headed households.

About 31 percent of households in Malawi reported that they did not have any means of disposing of their garbage. This is higher in rural areas where 35 percent of the households reported not using any type of rubbish disposal. Thirty-seven percent of female-headed households were not using any type of rubbish disposal as compared to 28 percent of male-headed households. Households whose heads had tertiary education were less likely to have no method of garbage disposal as compared to lower levels of education (6 percent for tertiary and 35 percent for no education).

Table 7.9. Percentage distribution of households by kind of rubbish disposal facility used by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Type of rubbish disposal						Total
	Rubbish bin	Rubbish pit	Burning	Public rubbish heap	Other	None	
Malawi	4.5	51.4	4.4	7.9	0.9	30.8	100
Place of residence							
Urban	14.6	58.0	3.8	8.7	1.5	13.5	100
Rural	2.2	49.9	4.6	7.7	0.8	34.9	100
Region							
North	6.0	63.0	1.6	2.5	0.4	26.5	100
Centre	4.1	55.2	3.8	9.7	0.3	26.9	100
South	4.7	45.6	5.5	7.2	1.6	35.4	100
Sex of household head							
Male	5.3	53.3	4.4	7.8	0.9	28.3	100
Female	2.7	46.7	4.5	8.1	1.0	37.0	100
Age of household head							-
15-24	3.7	44.0	4.3	9.4	1.7	37.0	100
25-34	5.3	52.0	4.0	8.0	0.6	30.3	100
35-49	4.9	55.2	4.8	7.8	0.9	26.4	100
50-64	4.7	52.1	4.2	8.0	0.6	30.4	100
65+	2.7	45.4	4.4	6.8	1.2	39.3	100
Marital Status of household head							-
Never married	7.5	51.6	3.9	6.8	0.8	29.5	100
Married	5.2	53.3	4.4	8.3	0.9	27.9	100
Divorced/Separated	2.0	45.6	5.0	7.4	0.9	39.1	100
Widow/Widower	2.7	47.2	4.2	6.5	0.7	38.6	100

Table 7.9 continued

Background characteristics	Rubbish bin	Rubbish pit	Burning	Public rubbish heap	Other	None	Total
Education Level of household head							
None	2.8	48.6	4.8	8.0	0.8	35.1	100
Primary	4.9	53.8	4.7	8.2	0.8	27.6	100
Secondary	7.9	59.4	3.0	7.6	1.5	20.5	100
Tertiary	22.6	63.1	2.3	6.3	0.1	5.6	100
District							
Chitipa	-	61.6	-	-	0.8	37.6	100
Karonga	0.2	66.7	0.8	1.0	-	31.3	100
Nkhata Bay	2.9	48.3	3.6	7.0	0.4	37.9	100
Rumphi	3.7	54.5	4.0	3.8	0.2	33.7	100
Mzimba	15.3	68.4	1.1	2.7	0.5	11.9	100
Likoma	1.0	40.1	5.8	6.3	-	46.8	100
Mzuzu City	17.0	76.2	0.4	1.5	0.9	4.0	100
Kasungu	4.1	57.2	2.6	1.6	-	34.6	100
Nkhotakota	1.2	39.5	5.0	27.4	0.5	26.4	100
Ntchisi	4.2	46.9	3.0	19.7	0.6	25.6	100
Dowa	0.7	59.3	0.7	1.8	-	37.6	100
Salima	0.6	40.5	7.8	9.9	0.3	40.8	100
Lilongwe	1.0	62.4	5.1	5.3	0.3	26.0	100
Mchinji	0.3	68.6	2.7	4.9	0.3	23.3	100
Dedza	5.7	43.9	3.9	13.4	0.3	32.8	100
Ntcheu	4.8	43.5	2.6	18.0	-	31.1	100
Lilongwe City	14.1	61.1	4.9	15.2	0.8	3.9	100
Mangochi	3.7	39.7	8.4	15.5	0.3	32.3	100
Machinga	2.9	41.1	6.5	14.6	0.6	34.3	100
Zomba	1.6	50.6	10.6	9.1	3.4	24.7	100
Chiradzulu	3.0	40.2	2.7	0.3	2.1	51.7	100
Blantyre	1.2	55.5	1.9	2.4	6.1	32.9	100
Mwanza	0.1	35.8	3.8	16.7	0.4	43.2	100
Thyolo	0.5	40.5	2.4	4.0	1.8	50.8	100
Mulanje	1.4	55.6	1.8	4.0	-	37.2	100
Phalombe	-	39.7	0.9	5.2	-	54.2	100
Chikwawa	-	50.8	15.1	2.1	1.2	30.7	100
Nsanje	-	51.1	12.9	1.0	0.3	34.7	100
Balaka	2.7	46.8	6.4	11.8	0.7	31.6	100
Neno	0.1	35.5	3.6	15.4	0.3	45.1	100
Zomba City	9.6	63.4	8.1	4.8	3.9	10.3	100
Blantyre City	23.0	48.3	1.4	5.3	2.9	19.1	100

7.10 Household Assets

The IHS4 collected data on household assets, both consumable durable goods and production durable goods. Consumable durable goods refer to appliances such as radio, mortar, bicycle, chair, bed, table, iron, clock, television and computer. Production durable goods refer to items used in agricultural production such as hand hoe, watering can, livestock kraal and ox-cart among others. Ownership of consumable durable goods is shown in Table 7.10 while ownership of production durable goods is shown in Table 7.11.

7.10.1 Proportion of households owning durable goods and appliances

The analysis of durable goods and appliances was made and the results show that 42, 37, 36 and 34 percent of households owned a mortar, a bicycle, a radio and a bed respectively.

By place of residence, results show that a higher proportion of urban households owned a bed at 71 percent compared to rural households at 25 percent. Similarly, 43 percent of urban households owned a radio compared to 34 percent of rural households. On the other hand, a higher proportion of rural households reported to own a mortar and a bicycle compared to urban households.

At the regional level, Northern Region has the highest proportion of household who owned a mortar and a bed at 56 and 67 percent respectively. Southern Region came second with 43 percent of households owning a mortar and 34 percent owning a bed. Central Region reported the lowest proportion of households who owned a bed and a mortar at 39 and 28 respectively. On the other hand, Central Region had the highest proportion of households who owned a bicycle at 38 percent followed by Southern Region at 36 percent and Northern region had the lowest at 32 percent. For the radio, both Northern and Central Regions had the same proportion (36 percent) of households that own a radio while Southern Region reported 35 percent.

Analysis of data by sex, further shows that a higher proportion of male-headed households owned a bed, a radio and a bicycle compared to female-headed households. On the other hand, a higher proportion of female headed households reported to own a mortar compared to male headed households.

Table 7.10 Proportion of household who own durable goods and appliances by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Mortar	Bed	Table	Chair	Air Conditioner	Radio	CD Player	TV	Bicycle	Clock	Iron	Computer
Malawi	42.1	34.1	27.1	33.9	0.1	35.5	8.9	11.2	36.7	8.5	15.5	2.3
Residence												
Urban	31.7	71.1	47.6	46.4	0.3	43.4	32.4	39.8	27.8	28.5	43.3	10.4
Rural	44.6	25.4	22.3	31.0	0.0	33.6	3.4	4.4	38.8	3.8	9.0	0.4
Region												
North	56.0	66.7	42.6	51.8	0.1	35.7	15.0	17.2	31.6	12.0	18.9	2.4
Central	38.7	27.8	23.3	27.2	0.1	36.4	7.4	9.3	38.3	6.5	14.3	2.0
Southern	42.7	33.8	27.6	36.7	0.1	34.5	9.1	11.8	36.2	9.8	16.0	2.7
Sex of household head												
Male	38.6	36.7	30.2	37.4	0.1	42.7	10.3	12.7	45.6	9.4	17.6	2.6
Female	50.7	27.8	19.6	25.5	0.0	17.8	5.5	7.5	15.0	6.5	10.4	1.6
Education												
None	44.5	24.6	21.0	29.0	0.0	32.3	3.5	4.4	35.5	4.0	8.3	0.4
Primary	39.6	42.5	35.7	43.5	0.0	39.7	9.6	11.3	41.5	10.0	19.1	0.6
Secondary	32.2	64.6	45.1	46.2	0.1	48.1	24.2	30.6	40.4	21.7	36.7	4.2
Tertiary	37.6	94.9	65.0	67.3	1.5	43.0	59.2	76.7	37.5	48.5	75.8	39.6
District												
Chitipa	58.7	64.7	39.5	54.6	0.0	38.3	2.8	3.4	26.6	4.4	8.7	0.0
Karonga	56.5	73.1	40.3	55.1	0.0	33.2	10.3	10.3	42.5	6.0	11.7	1.1
Nkhata Bay	74.4	68.4	44.7	45.2	0.0	32.0	6.5	10.5	26.8	13.9	16.8	0.9
Rumphi	64.2	58.3	43.2	45.3	0.0	38.4	10.1	11.8	31.7	13.3	15.8	1.3
Mzimba	47.9	42.6	38.7	48.7	0.0	35.1	17.0	17.5	31.6	10.5	19.9	2.9
Likoma	41.7	75.0	45.3	47.4	0.0	47.6	19.8	31.3	11.1	16.4	17.6	1.9
Mzuzu City	35.4	87.9	50.0	59.6	0.8	37.9	44.9	51.8	25.6	26.9	44.0	8.5
Kasungu	49.5	22.2	19.7	23.1	0.0	31.6	3.3	2.6	34.3	4.5	9.5	0.0
Nkhotakota	60.9	46.0	25.6	32.8	0.0	50.2	8.2	10.5	40.7	2.5	7.6	0.9
Ntchisi	48.7	26.2	21.9	29.7	0.0	41.6	3.3	3.6	37.5	1.1	5.0	0.2
Dowa	42.9	19.8	18.0	20.3	0.0	39.0	5.0	5.3	38.8	4.9	16.3	0.4
Salima	30.9	22.1	19.2	22.2	0.0	22.5	3.9	3.7	34.6	3.3	5.2	1.3
Lilongwe	29.5	18.2	21.2	26.7	0.0	35.4	3.0	4.7	44.9	3.0	8.5	0.0
Mchinji	41.3	16.2	20.1	23.6	0.0	22.8	1.2	1.5	35.1	2.1	6.3	0.3
Dedza	42.5	21.0	25.5	30.3	0.0	35.5	2.5	5.6	45.4	3.0	11.1	0.7
Ntcheu	50.1	18.0	20.2	22.4	0.0	31.4	4.3	5.6	33.9	5.3	8.8	1.4
Lilongwe City	23.5	66.6	37.4	39.9	0.4	53.0	30.1	37.1	33.2	24.2	44.0	11.0
Mangochi	50.4	44.3	21.0	27.7	0.0	36.3	1.3	3.1	32.1	3.7	7.3	0.0
Machinga	49.8	27.1	18.9	25.1	0.0	29.4	0.9	2.1	46.4	4.1	8.7	0.5
Zomba	48.2	28.6	24.2	35.1	0.0	40.2	2.0	2.9	49.3	4.3	9.0	0.3
Chiradzulu	32.4	19.4	19.8	28.2	0.0	30.5	4.0	3.0	30.3	2.2	8.3	0.2
Blantyre	41.9	29.1	31.7	40.1	0.0	36.3	7.1	8.8	27.1	7.9	16.1	0.5
Mwanza	52.1	24.9	29.7	36.5	0.0	43.8	9.4	10.7	34.8	6.9	12.7	1.3
Thyolo	32.9	21.7	25.1	37.1	0.0	27.8	2.6	6.0	22.8	5.6	10.5	0.1
Mulanje	46.4	25.6	29.5	42.0	0.0	40.2	8.5	8.1	53.6	6.0	10.9	3.0
Phalombe	48.7	9.0	11.2	20.2	0.0	31.8	1.3	2.1	61.5	0.4	2.2	0.0
Chikwawa	43.7	13.0	17.3	53.2	0.3	37.1	1.6	4.5	50.9	3.9	8.0	1.1
Nsanje	47.1	16.8	18.3	55.0	0.3	23.9	1.9	6.3	43.4	2.1	7.6	1.0
Balaka	47.0	28.8	24.1	32.6	0.0	39.2	4.6	7.9	45.3	4.6	14.2	0.5
Neno	50.5	19.3	24.4	27.1	0.0	41.3	7.6	8.0	32.3	6.1	15.7	1.0
Zomba City	40.1	81.9	56.3	61.2	0.2	46.8	36.4	43.7	33.8	34.8	50.1	15.9
Blantyre City	32.6	78.1	59.3	47.7	0.3	34.3	42.7	52.2	14.5	42.5	54.0	13.9

7.10.2 Proportion of households owning agricultural tools and equipment

Results from analysis of agricultural tools and equipment show that 86 percent of households owned a hoe, 49 percent of households owned a panga and 10 percent of households owned a kraal.

By place of residence, results show that a higher proportion of rural households owned a hoe at 93 percent compared to urban households at (52 percent). Similarly, rural areas also had a higher proportion of households who owned a panga and a kraal compared to urban areas (35 percent).

At the regional level, Northern Region had the highest proportion of households who owned a hoe at 88 percent followed by Central Region at 86 percent and Southern Region at 85 percent. On the other hand, Central Region had the highest proportion of households who owned a panga at 51 percent followed by Southern Region at 49 percent and Northern region had the lowest at 36 percent. For the kraal, Central Region had the highest proportion (11 percent) of households that own a kraal followed by Northern Region at 10 percent and Southern Region reported 9 percent.

Analysing by sex shows that a higher proportion (87 percent) of female-headed households owned a hoe compared to 85 percent for male-headed households. On the contrary, a higher proportion of male-headed households reported to own a panga and a kraal compared to female headed households.

Table 7.11 Proportion of households who own agricultural tools and equipment by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Hoe	Slasher	Axe	Panga	Sickle	Pump	Water can	Oxcart	Kraal	Granary
Malawi	85.5	13.3	43.7	49.0	34.6	0.5	13.8	1.3	10.0	5.6
Residence										
Urban	51.6	18.4	31.3	34.6	9.9	0.4	7.2	0.2	2.2	0.7
Rural	93.4	12.1	46.7	52.4	40.4	0.6	15.4	1.5	11.9	6.7
Region										
North	87.5	26.1	68.6	35.7	44.2	0.5	16.0	1.8	9.8	5.3
Central	85.7	13.3	44.7	51.4	34.3	0.8	18.4	2.2	11.4	9.3
Southern	84.8	10.8	38.0	49.3	33.0	0.3	9.0	0.3	8.8	2.0
Sex of household head										
Male	84.7	15.7	47.5	54.8	36.2	0.7	16.7	1.6	11.8	6.1
Female	87.2	7.5	34.6	34.8	30.8	0.2	6.7	0.5	5.7	4.3
Education										
None	90.4	11.2	45.1	50.8	39.1	0.5	13.6	1.4	10.7	6.3
Primary	84.4	18.4	44.7	47.5	32.6	0.3	19.4	1.3	12.1	5.2
Secondary	67.5	18.5	39.4	43.1	18.7	1.0	12.3	1.1	7.3	2.8
Tertiary	53.8	26.6	29.7	37.9	5.8	0.5	12.2	0.1	2.5	0.8
District										
Chitipa	96.6	17.6	81.5	26.4	40.8	0.3	11.9	1.1	12.0	9.0
Karonga	90.7	14.5	67.3	23.6	56.5	0.2	4.9	2.3	5.1	1.7
Nkhata Bay	92.5	41.7	73.0	44.7	50.3	0.4	11.7	0.0	7.7	0.9
Rumphi	93.4	30.5	79.7	51.2	53.5	1.2	25.9	1.3	12.0	7.1
Mzimba	89.9	23.7	69.0	46.1	47.4	1.2	36.2	6.2	19.5	14.7
Likoma	86.9	20.6	45.4	49.5	37.0	0.0	9.7	0.0	12.0	0.0
Mzuzu City	61.2	35.5	43.7	30.1	12.1	0.0	13.0	0.0	5.5	1.1
Kasungu	92.3	12.1	61.9	57.7	50.3	0.7	22.9	3.0	15.3	5.2
Nkhotakota	93.4	22.8	52.8	60.7	39.0	0.6	4.7	0.0	12.4	5.5
Ntchisi	97.6	15.5	64.0	60.6	43.7	0.8	17.6	3.2	25.9	19.0
Dowa	93.4	15.6	59.3	64.1	46.7	1.6	26.5	2.2	23.8	13.4
Salima	83.6	9.6	31.1	43.5	36.5	0.0	2.6	0.2	7.3	6.2
Lilongwe	91.2	12.0	43.5	51.9	37.0	0.6	27.8	4.7	9.7	13.7
Mchinji	93.8	10.3	37.8	55.4	33.4	0.4	12.8	1.0	10.4	8.6
Dedza	91.8	5.9	40.2	43.5	34.7	0.8	26.7	3.0	6.2	17.4
Ntcheu	96.4	16.4	42.0	55.0	31.0	1.2	14.3	1.7	13.7	5.6
Lilongwe City	46.8	16.9	29.0	33.8	6.0	1.1	8.6	0.1	1.3	1.1
Mangochi	93.9	7.6	34.2	51.1	41.3	0.1	6.8	0.0	7.4	6.8
Machinga	97.0	15.4	36.3	47.9	45.2	0.0	8.8	0.7	10.3	1.9
Zomba	95.5	17.8	46.1	51.2	50.7	0.6	19.1	0.4	9.6	2.5
Chiradzulu	95.9	10.4	38.9	47.9	35.8	0.0	13.7	0.0	6.1	0.0
Blantyre	91.2	10.8	40.0	52.5	35.8	0.5	11.2	0.0	7.8	0.0
Mwanza	93.3	9.4	52.6	52.3	42.0	0.0	13.0	0.0	23.5	0.0
Thyolo	90.2	8.2	41.5	46.6	29.1	0.0	15.0	0.0	8.1	0.0
Mulanje	85.2	7.0	37.1	47.6	26.9	0.0	5.8	0.0	7.0	0.0
Phalombe	96.2	4.0	38.0	52.4	42.6	0.0	5.2	0.0	15.5	0.0
Chikwawa	86.3	7.7	46.5	65.8	36.7	1.6	6.2	1.7	17.5	2.9
Nsanje	93.0	8.6	42.8	68.3	30.3	1.1	2.9	1.1	12.0	0.4
Balaka	94.1	11.0	44.2	55.7	41.3	0.0	7.1	0.0	11.1	4.0
Neno	96.3	15.1	60.4	72.6	51.2	2.1	15.1	1.0	24.8	3.1
Zomba City	74.0	36.3	47.9	50.9	12.8	0.8	11.6	0.0	4.8	0.3
Blantyre City	35.2	13.7	21.0	27.2	2.7	0.0	4.5	0.0	0.3	0.0

Chapter 8

AGRICULTURE

8.0 Introduction

The data collected from the agricultural module in the IHS4 includes; garden details between the years 2014/15 and 2015/16 rainy and dry seasons; plot details; coupon use; other agricultural inputs; number of crop plots planted by type of crop stand; tree/permanent crop production; livestock and their products that also include poultry numbers: (by local and exotic/improved breed); access to extension services; land disposition and information about fish farming.

Largely, this chapter presents information pertaining to agricultural activities in Malawi. Firstly, it provides the general structure of household level agricultural activities followed by households that reported to have owned or cultivated land during the indicated agricultural rainy season. The second part presents plot-level information using the cultivated plots during the agricultural rainy season of the two stated years.

8.1 Households engaged in agricultural activities

During the 2015/16 agricultural rainy season, 83 percent of households in Malawi were engaged in agricultural activities. About 78 percent of households owned or cultivated land during the rainy season while only 8 percent of households practiced dry season crop production. According to residence, more households in rural areas (93 percent) were engaged in agricultural activities than those in urban areas (40 percent).

Results further indicate that there was a higher proportion of female-headed households that were engaged in agricultural activities (87 percent) than male-headed households (81 percent).

Thirty seven percent of the households owned livestock during the 12 months preceding the survey. More households in the Northern region (51 percent) owned livestock compared to 39 and 33 percent for the Central and Southern regions, respectively.

The proportion of those who owned livestock was higher among male-headed households compared to female-headed households, at 39 percent and 31 percent respectively.

Table 8.1 Percent of households engaged in agricultural activities, Malawi 2015/16

Background Characteristics	Agricultural households	Rainy season crops	Dry season crops	Tree Crops	Livestock
Malawi	82.7	78.3	8.3	20.6	36.9
Residence					
Urban	40.0	31.3	2.7	8.2	18.7
Rural	92.7	89.4	9.6	23.5	41.1
Region					
North	83.3	70.7	6.2	33.0	51.4
Central	83.3	79.9	8.5	19.0	38.5
Southern	81.9	78.3	8.4	19.7	32.5
Sex of Household head					
Male	81.0	76.3	8.8	20.0	39.4
Female	86.6	83.3	6.9	21.9	30.8
Age of HH head					
15 - 24	72.6	68.0	6.3	13.2	22.1
25 -34	77.1	73.6	7.6	16.0	31.4
35 - 49	82.6	77.8	9.0	20.5	39.8
50 - 64	89.6	84.9	9.7	26.6	45.3
65 and above	92.4	88.0	7.4	27.4	40.3
Marital Status					
Never Married	39.0	34.9	3.4	8.0	11.4
Married	83.4	78.9	9.0	20.0	40.8
Divorced/Separated	84.5	81.5	7.5	21.4	26.7
Widowed	87.1	82.0	6.1	25.5	32.0
Education HH head					
None	89.2	85.4	9.1	22.4	38.2
Primary	81.9	76.6	8.5	22.2	41.0
Secondary	59.5	54.3	5.1	13.5	31.3
Tertiary	39.7	29.1	2.0	6.9	22.1

Table 8.1 continued

Background Characteristics	Agricultural households	Rainy season crops	Dry season crops	Tree Crops	Livestock
District					
Chitipa	94.0	92.4	11.4	20.1	71.9
Karonga	91.7	83.1	1.3	44.0	65.1
Nkhata Bay	90.7	49.9	3.3	75.6	47.6
Rumphi	90.9	85.6	6.3	20.7	52.6
Mzimba	88.9	84.7	13.4	26.3	43.3
Likoma	66.5	18.7	0.0	27.5	52.5
Mzuzu City	41.6	25.7	4.5	6.5	20.2
Kasungu	93.9	92.3	7.5	33.1	52.2
Nkhotakota	87.4	72.7	3.0	42.1	43.5
Ntchisi	94.1	91.4	4.7	19.1	59.7
Dowa	95.1	93.6	9.6	24.8	55.3
Salima	81.1	77.6	1.2	4.5	24.9
Lilongwe	90.5	87.7	15.5	15.4	38.4
Mchinji	91.1	88.1	12.4	26.4	39.3
Dedza	92.9	92.2	11.1	15.3	31.9
Ntcheu	91.2	90.2	4.6	18.9	34.4
Lilongwe City	36.8	29.3	2.8	5.8	20.3
Mangochi	93.1	89.7	6.4	18.0	34.0
Machinga	96.8	95.9	6.8	31.8	33.3
Zomba	96.9	96.0	16.1	33.3	44.2
Chiradzulu	97.6	96.0	7.5	25.0	34.1
Blantyre	87.6	85.0	3.6	16.6	34.3
Mwanza	91.6	88.4	9.5	37.5	55.7
Thyolo	90.8	90.6	9.4	34.2	27.0
Mulanje	87.0	81.6	5.5	23.7	38.5
Phalombe	96.4	94.6	4.0	14.3	44.1
Chikwawa	84.7	78.0	25.7	12.3	39.1
Nsanje	89.3	80.6	30.6	6.4	39.3
Balaka	88.7	87.0	3.0	19.3	36.5
Neno	94.0	91.1	7.8	23.0	56.7
Zomba City	64.6	53.8	3.1	16.0	27.5
Blantyre City	18.5	11.3	0.6	0.9	6.8

8.2 Cultivated area

On cultivated area, survey results show that in Malawi, the average cultivated area is about 1.5 acres. Results also show that on average, male-headed households cultivated 1.7 acres compared to their female counterparts who cultivated 1.2 acres. About 46 percent of households cultivated less than 1 acre.

The proportion of female-headed households cultivating less than an acre of land is higher (57 percent) than their male counterparts, (41 percent). On the other hand, the proportion of male-headed agricultural households who cultivated more than one but less than two acres of land (32 percent) is higher than the female-headed households (29 percent).

Across regions, the Southern region had the lowest average cultivated area (1.2 acres) compared to the Central (1.9 acres) and Northern (1.5 acres) regions.

Table 8.2 Average cultivated area (acres) and plot size by households during the 2015/2016 rainy season

Background Characteristics	Average cultivated area (acres)	Own acres	Cultivated acres	Size of plots (acres)				
				0-1	1-2	2-4	4-6	6+
Malawi	1.5	1.4	1.5	45.8	31.5	17.6	3.5	1.7
Residence								
Urban	1.2	1.0	1.2	61.5	25.1	10.1	2.6	0.7
Rural	1.6	1.4	1.5	44.5	32.0	18.2	3.5	1.8
Region								
North	1.5	1.3	1.5	42.8	33.8	19.1	2.9	1.4
Central	1.9	1.7	1.8	36.3	31.9	23.8	5.3	2.9
Southern	1.2	1.1	1.2	55.5	30.7	11.3	1.8	0.7
Sex of Household head								
Male	1.7	1.5	1.6	40.7	32.4	20.3	4.3	2.3
Female	1.2	1.1	1.1	57.0	29.4	11.6	1.5	0.5
Age of HH head								
15 - 24	0.9	0.8	0.9	67.8	25.4	5.9	0.4	0.7
25 -34	1.3	1.1	1.3	52.8	29.0	14.5	2.8	0.9
35 - 49	1.6	1.4	1.6	41.4	32.4	20.9	3.3	1.9
50 - 64	1.8	1.7	1.8	36.5	33.7	21.2	5.8	2.8
65 and above	1.6	1.5	1.5	42.9	42.9	42.9	42.9	2.0
Marital Status								
Never Married	1.1	1.0	1.0	68.3	15.7	12.7	1.0	2.3
Married	1.7	1.5	1.6	40.7	32.7	20.3	4.2	2.2
Divorced/Separated	1.1	1.0	1.1	60.2	27.0	10.7	1.7	0.5
Widowed	1.2	1.1	1.1	55.2	31.5	11.0	1.6	0.7
Education HH head								
None	1.5	1.4	1.4	45.2	32.5	17.6	3.2	1.4
Primary	1.6	1.4	1.6	49.2	26.9	17.4	4.4	2.3
Secondary	1.7	1.4	1.7	47.6	26.4	17.8	4.8	3.5
Tertiary	1.7	1.0	1.6	46.5	32.2	13.8	4.3	3.2
District								
Chitipa	1.6	1.5	1.5	34.4	40.7	22.2	1.8	0.9
Karonga	1.1	0.9	1.0	58.6	29.8	10.6	0.9	0.2
Nkhata Bay	1.1	0.9	1.0	64.0	24.7	9.8	1.6	0.0
Rumphi	1.8	1.6	1.7	32.1	38.4	22.8	5.1	1.6
Mzimba	2.3	1.9	2.2	22.4	34.0	32.8	6.6	4.2
Likoma	0.5	0.4	0.5	90.5	7.1	0.0	2.4	0.0
Mzuzu City	1.4	1.0	1.2	52.6	32.4	12.4	0.8	1.9
Kasungu	2.7	2.4	2.6	19.3	26.9	36.2	10.1	7.5
Nkhotakota	1.5	1.3	1.4	42.5	37.6	16.5	1.5	2.0
Ntchisi	2.6	2.4	2.5	15.1	30.1	41.8	7.7	5.3
Dowa	2.3	2.1	2.2	22.9	29.2	35.2	8.3	4.4
Salima	1.2	1.0	1.1	56.2	32.1	8.9	2.5	0.3
Lilongwe	1.7	1.5	1.6	40.5	31.3	21.1	4.8	2.3
Mchinji	2.1	1.8	2.1	28.9	32.9	28.1	6.6	3.5

Table 8.2 continued

Background Characteristics	Average cultivated area (acres)	Own acres	Cultivated acres	0-1	1-2	2-4	4-6	6+
				47.6	37.7	12.2	2.3	0.3
Ntcheu	1.4	1.3	1.4	45.7	33.7	18.5	1.4	0.7
Lilongwe City	1.5	1.0	1.4	51.6	31.2	12.8	3.9	0.5
Mangochi	1.3	1.2	1.3	46.6	38.7	12.0	2.2	0.5
Machinga	1.4	1.2	1.3	45.0	38.3	13.5	2.0	1.3
Zomba	1.4	1.3	1.3	44.8	36.7	15.8	1.9	0.8
Chiradzulu	0.8	0.7	0.8	74.6	21.9	3.3	0.2	0.0
Blantyre	1.0	0.9	1.0	59.5	32.6	7.2	0.7	0.0
Mwanza	1.5	1.4	1.5	38.6	39.0	20.0	1.6	0.8
Thyolo	0.9	0.8	0.9	70.7	22.5	5.8	0.5	0.4
Mulanje	1.0	0.9	0.9	67.1	24.1	6.9	1.1	0.8
Phalombe	1.2	1.1	1.1	53.0	32.7	13.0	1.3	0.0
Chikwawa	1.7	1.4	1.7	40.3	30.2	22.1	5.2	2.3
Nsanje	1.3	1.1	1.3	50.8	33.3	12.7	2.6	0.6
Balaka	1.5	1.4	1.5	45.6	29.5	20.2	3.5	1.1
Neno	1.5	1.4	1.5	41.6	37.7	16.9	3.0	0.8
Zomba City	1.0	0.8	0.9	73.9	17.2	6.6	0.8	1.4
Blantyre City	0.8	0.6	0.7	82.9	14.5	2.6	0.0	0.0

8.3 Household means of plot acquisition

During the IHS4, information was collected on how plots were acquired. An agricultural household may acquire a plot it owns or rents. A plot may be rented for an agreed amount of money, produce or service. In some cases, plots were acquired through inheritance, given by local leaders, given by a family member, purchased or given as a bride price. Survey results from the Table 8.3 below indicate that, the highest proportion of plots (53 percent) were acquired through allocation by a family member. This is followed by those plots that were acquired through inheritance (15 percent). According to residence, rural areas had a higher proportion of plots that were acquired through allocation by a family member (54 percent) compared to urban areas (42 percent).

Table 8.3 Proportion of plots by method of acquisition, Malawi, 2015/16

Background Characteristics	Allocated by a family member	Inherited	Granted by local leaders	Rent short term	Borrowed for free	Gift from non HH member	Purchased	Moved in	Bride Price	Leasehold	Farming as a tenant	Other
Malawi	53.0	14.8	12.5	7.9	2.9	3.7	3.6	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.5
Residence												
Urban	41.6	14.5	6.6	14.3	6.9	2.2	9.7	1.4	0.5	0.0	0.7	1.7
Rural	53.9	14.8	13.0	7.4	2.6	3.8	3.2	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.4
Region												
North	37.0	17.5	23.2	6.0	6.2	4.8	3.1	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.9
Central	51.6	14.9	9.1	10.6	2.7	5.8	3.9	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.4
Southern	57.6	14.1	13.8	5.5	2.4	1.4	3.5	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.5
Sex of Household head												
Male	52.3	13.8	11.5	9.2	3.2	4.1	4.2	0.8	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.5
Female	54.7	17.3	15.0	4.6	2.2	2.6	2.3	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.5

Table 8.3 continued

Background Characteristics	Allocated by a family member	Inherited	Granted by local leaders	Rent short term	Borrowed for free	Gift from non HH member	Purchased	Moved in	Bride Price	Leasehold	Farming as a tenant	Other
Age of HH head												
15 - 24	71.9	5.7	6.3	5.4	4.3	3.9	1.6	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.3
25 -34	61.1	10.9	6.9	9.6	3.3	4.5	1.9	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.9
35 - 49	54.6	13.7	9.6	9.7	3.2	3.6	4.3	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4
50 - 64	45.8	18.0	16.4	6.6	2.5	2.9	5.9	1.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3
65 and above	35.5	24.5	26.9	3.4	1.3	3.7	2.9	1.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.4
Marital Status												
Never Married	59.6	11.7	7.8	7.9	5.6	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.4
Married	53.2	13.4	11.1	9.1	3.1	4.1	4.2	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.5
Divorced/Separated	59.7	16.0	11.2	4.7	2.6	2.5	1.8	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.8
Widowed	43.8	22.1	22.6	3.6	1.5	2.8	2.2	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.4
Education HH head												
None	53.6	15.7	13.4	6.6	2.4	3.8	3.1	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3
Primary	54.1	12.8	10.9	9.5	2.9	3.0	4.8	0.4	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.6
Secondary	51.3	10.5	7.0	13.5	5.0	4.0	6.0	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.5	1.6
Tertiary	23.4	3.6	8.7	31.5	13.7	1.2	8.8	4.2	0.0	0.2	1.4	3.4
District												
Chitipa	39.7	11.8	38.3	2.0	2.2	2.4	1.2	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Karonga	37.0	18.5	23.0	10.0	5.5	0.8	4.5	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nkhata Bay	33.8	14.0	26.9	4.9	5.9	5.5	6.3	0.7	0.9	0.0	0.4	0.8
Rumphi	36.5	20.6	23.3	6.4	3.9	5.0	1.3	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.5	1.4
Mzimba	39.6	21.6	8.2	3.1	10.6	12.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7
Likoma	47.5	10.9	11.9	0.0	8.6	0.0	21.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mzuzu City	19.5	17.6	2.9	12.9	23.8	8.4	12.8	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	1.5
Kasungu	41.4	10.7	10.8	9.5	6.4	12.9	5.7	1.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.7
Nkhotakota	44.7	9.4	21.9	12.2	4.5	0.2	5.6	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
Ntchisi	53.1	14.0	10.4	9.3	3.0	6.7	2.9	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
Dowa	42.2	17.1	7.5	10.0	3.2	16.3	3.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Salima	37.7	15.0	18.4	13.4	4.0	6.9	3.0	1.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3
Lilongwe	50.1	21.5	9.0	12.0	0.6	3.1	2.3	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.2
Mchinji	57.9	16.2	4.5	12.0	2.7	0.9	3.1	1.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.4
Dedza	67.1	15.2	5.9	5.6	0.8	2.7	2.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.4
Ntcheu	75.3	3.3	8.2	5.8	1.6	0.4	5.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lilongwe City	38.3	13.1	4.0	21.9	5.4	1.7	10.7	2.0	0.6	0.0	0.5	1.9
Mangochi	50.9	16.4	20.5	5.4	2.1	1.2	3.0	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
Machinga	55.1	16.9	16.3	4.4	2.9	0.2	3.7	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3
Zomba	48.4	21.7	20.9	4.9	1.6	0.7	1.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2
Chiradzulu	55.5	15.2	15.6	5.3	1.1	3.9	2.4	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Blantyre	61.7	13.2	12.1	4.3	2.8	0.9	2.0	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.2	1.8
Mwanza	70.2	11.1	7.7	5.5	1.6	0.9	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
Thyolo	57.5	11.8	14.5	5.5	2.0	0.8	4.9	1.4	0.5	0.0	0.1	1.0
Mulanje	77.8	4.6	3.4	3.1	3.8	2.0	4.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4
Phalombe	81.6	5.6	3.4	2.0	2.6	1.8	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chikwawa	46.1	17.4	12.0	12.1	2.3	0.8	4.3	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Nsanje	47.4	15.8	13.3	15.7	3.5	0.5	2.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Balaka	57.7	16.3	15.8	4.3	0.4	0.5	4.1	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.2
Neno	52.7	12.7	20.1	3.3	1.7	0.3	8.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.9
Zomba City	35.6	17.6	7.8	12.6	9.9	2.5	8.0	3.1	0.3	0.0	0.3	2.5
Blantyre City	43.0	19.3	2.5	2.7	8.7	2.3	5.7	4.4	0.0	0.0	5.0	6.4

Analysis by sex of household head shows that 55 percent of female-headed households acquired plots through allocation by family member compared to 52 percent for male-headed households.

Across regions, the Southern region had a higher proportion of plots (58 percent) that were acquired through allocation by a family member than the Central and Northern regions which recorded 52 and 37 percent respectively.

8.4 Ownership of plots

The survey collected further information regarding the status of plot ownership for those households which acquired plots. Results from Table 8.5 below indicate that during the 2014/15 agriculture season, about 35 percent of the plots were exclusively owned by female managers while 24 percent were exclusively owned by the male managers. Survey results also reveal that about 18 percent of the plots were jointly owned by both male and female managers while less than a quarter of the plots (24 percent) were not owned by any manager.

Table 8.4 Primary plot management by gender, Malawi 2015/16

Background Characteristics	Exclusively Female owned	Exclusively male owned	Male and Female Jointly owned	Not owned
Malawi	34.7	24.3	17.5	23.5
Residence				
Urban	38.8	22.8	17.8	20.6
Rural	34.4	24.4	17.5	23.7
Region				
North	15.4	34.7	33.0	16.9
Central	27.1	29.9	19.7	23.4
Southern	47.1	16.0	12.0	25.0
Sex of Household head				
Male	21.4	33.8	23.1	21.7
Female	66.7	1.5	3.9	28.0
Age of HH head				
15 - 24	27.6	28.6	9.2	34.6
25 -34	32.4	27.5	15.1	24.9
35 - 49	33.6	24.5	19.1	22.8
50 - 64	36.3	22.4	20.5	20.8
65 and above	41.7	19.5	17.6	21.3
Marital Status				
Never Married	27.8	34.7	6.7	30.8
Married	24.6	29.8	23.1	22.4
Divorced/Separated	58.9	10.6	2.8	27.6
Widowed	68.0	5.6	1.4	25.0
Education HH head				
None	36.5	23.1	16.7	23.6
Primary	27.6	30.5	20.1	21.8
Secondary	24.2	29.7	21.8	24.3
Tertiary	41.3	18.5	18.3	22.0
District				
Chitipa	11.8	31.4	45.6	11.3
Karonga	16.6	33.9	41.9	7.6
Nkhata Bay	17.0	25.6	23.4	34.0
Rumphi	15.9	24.4	28.8	30.9
Mzimba	16.5	51.4	16.7	15.5
Likoma	17.3	10.2	25.8	46.7

Table 8.4 continued

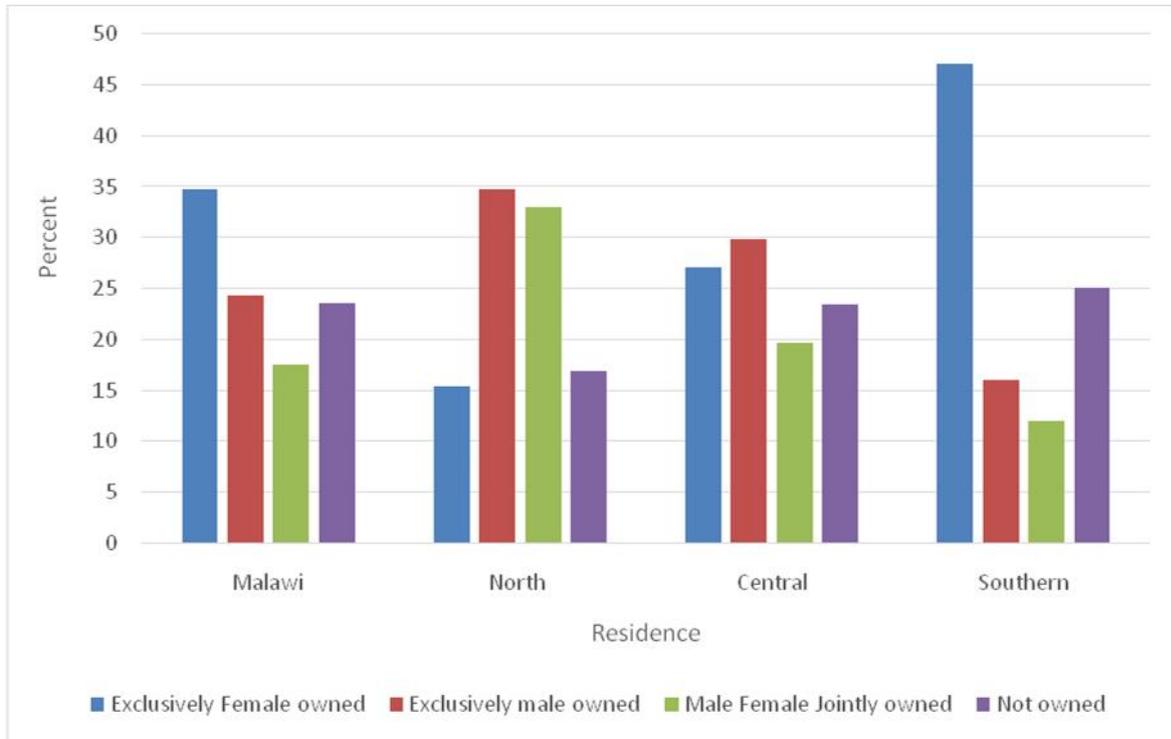
Background Characteristics	Exclusively Female owned	Exclusively male owned	Male and Female Jointly owned	Not owned
Mzuzu City	15.9	43.4	20.4	20.3
Kasungu	19.9	35.6	26.7	17.7
Nkhotakota	26.0	35.9	19.3	18.7
Ntchisi	18.8	44.1	12.8	24.4
Dowa	19.3	34.8	34.4	11.5
Salima	38.7	26.4	11.0	23.9
Lilongwe	34.1	33.9	13.9	18.1
Mchinji	27.6	30.2	25.1	17.2
Dedza	28.3	13.4	12.5	45.8
Ntcheu	29.2	9.8	9.2	51.8
Lilongwe City	34.4	36.1	18.9	10.6
Mangochi	45.9	18.6	3.5	32.1
Machinga	39.9	11.7	21.0	27.4
Zomba	44.1	18.0	16.6	21.4
Chiradzulu	53.5	9.8	7.8	28.9
Blantyre	52.0	17.8	10.6	19.6
Mwanza	48.2	10.6	18.3	22.9
Thyolo	47.8	10.7	6.5	35.0
Mulanje	59.5	18.4	12.0	10.2
Phalombe	62.6	12.9	10.5	14.0
Chikwawa	25.8	32.7	19.4	22.3
Nsanje	18.9	31.1	20.5	29.5
Balaka	43.5	14.0	14.1	28.4
Neno	35.8	16.3	26.0	22.0
Zomba City	34.3	21.9	13.7	30.1
Blantyre City	84.6	2.9	6.2	6.3

According to residence, it was observed that about 39 percent of the plots that are exclusively owned by female managers are located in urban areas whereas 34 percent are in rural areas.

Results further indicate that female-headed households had a higher proportion of plots (67 percent) that were exclusively owned by female managers as compared to the male-headed households (21 percent).

Analysis across regions indicates that Southern region had the highest proportion of plots (47 percent) that were owned by female managers while the Central and Northern regions registered 27 and 15 percent respectively.

Figure 8. 1 Plot ownership status by region, Malawi 2016



8.5 Proportion of plots that used fertilisers, herbicides and any irrigation type

A number of non-labour inputs were used for cultivation between the two agricultural seasons and these included; use of organic fertilizers (manure of big and small animals and compost), inorganic fertilizers, pesticides/herbicides and the use of irrigation. Table 8.5 below shows that about 55 percent of the cultivated plots used inorganic fertilizers over the two agricultural seasons while only 19 percent of the plots were applied with organic fertilizers during the same reference period.

It was also observed that a higher proportion of plots in the urban areas were applied with inorganic fertilizers (70 percent) as compared to the rural areas (54 percent). Results further show that a slightly higher proportion of male-headed households (57 percent) used inorganic fertilizers on their plots than their female counterparts (50 percent).

Use of inorganic fertilizers was highest (70 percent) among household heads with tertiary education as compared to those with lower levels of education. Use of pesticides/herbicides was not popularized enough during this growing season: only 2 percent of the agricultural households reported having used them on their plots over the two seasons.

Table 8.5 Proportion of plots by various non labour input use, Malawi 2015/16

Background Characteristics	Organic fertiliser	Inorganic fertiliser	No fertilizers applied	Herbicides/ Pesticides	Irrigation
Malawi	19.2	54.7	37.6	2.3	0.3
Residence					
Urban	24.0	69.6	23.1	1.7	0.6
Rural	18.9	53.6	38.7	2.4	0.3
Region					
North	12.8	55.8	39.4	2.8	0.4
Central	18.1	53.8	39.8	1.6	0.1
Southern	21.9	55.4	34.8	3.1	0.6
Sex of Household head					
Male	18.9	56.5	36.6	2.8	0.3
Female	19.9	50.1	40.3	1.3	0.4
Age of HH head					
15 - 24	20.0	48.8	40.8	1.4	0.4
25 -34	18.9	54.9	37.1	2.7	0.1
35 - 49	19.0	57.5	35.5	2.2	0.4
50 - 64	19.4	55.0	38.3	2.8	0.4
65 and above	19.6	50.1	41.0	1.9	0.2
Marital Status					
Never Married	20.0	56.6	33.0	0.8	0.5
Married	19.2	56.2	36.6	2.7	0.3
Divorced/Separated	20.6	49.7	40.9	1.3	0.2
Widowed	18.1	50.5	41.0	1.5	0.4
Education HH head					
None	19.3	52.6	39.3	2.1	0.3
Primary	21.5	58.4	32.7	2.9	0.2
Secondary	18.3	65.5	29.7	3.2	0.4
Tertiary	9.7	69.7	28.4	4.5	0.1
District					
Chitipa	7.4	58.9	37.6	1.4	0.2
Karonga	5.8	38.7	56.4	2.7	0.7
Nkhata Bay	7.1	50.8	45.2	5.5	1.5
Rumphi	28.1	69.5	20.7	3.7	0.0
Mzimba	15.1	59.3	38.2	2.5	0.4
Likoma	2.4	92.3	5.4	2.0	0.0
Mzuzu City	19.5	84.4	12.4	3.9	0.0
Kasungu	14.9	51.4	42.8	1.4	0.1
Nkhotakota	8.1	51.4	43.3	1.9	0.0
Ntchisi	12.3	48.5	45.1	1.4	0.0
Dowa	17.2	48.2	44.8	1.9	0.1
Salima	18.2	44.8	46.2	5.9	0.0
Lilongwe	17.8	55.6	39.4	0.8	0.1
Mchinji	16.8	53.0	43.0	0.7	0.4
Dedza	23.7	52.9	37.6	1.7	0.0
Ntcheu	24.8	67.8	24.4	2.0	0.0
Lilongwe City	24.9	66.5	26.5	1.5	0.0
Mangochi	28.1	42.9	37.1	1.1	0.6
Machinga	31.5	59.1	27.3	1.6	0.7
Zomba	29.6	69.5	23.6	2.8	1.9
Chiradzulu	17.2	73.9	19.4	0.8	0.0
Blantyre	25.4	77.5	14.1	0.0	0.4
Mwanza	24.2	76.0	17.8	0.2	0.3
Thyolo	16.6	63.7	31.3	0.3	0.1
Mulanje	16.7	49.6	42.5	0.5	0.2
Phalombe	18.1	54.7	37.0	0.0	0.2
Chikwawa	5.9	15.5	79.4	20.8	0.3
Nsanje	5.1	13.1	83.2	9.1	2.5
Balaka	28.7	46.5	40.3	7.3	0.3
Neno	30.4	59.6	25.2	3.6	1.3

Table 8.5 continued

Background Characteristics	Organic fertiliser	Inorganic fertiliser	No fertilizers applied	Herbicides/ Pesticides	Irrigation
Zomba City	34.8	90.3	5.3	0.9	0.3
Blantyre City	31.7	75.8	12.1	4.6	2.0

Use of organic fertilizers was slightly higher in urban areas (24 percent) as compared to rural areas (19 percent). Across regions, it was observed that the Southern Region had a higher proportion of plots that used organic fertilizers (22 percent) than the Central (18 percent) and Northern (13 percent) regions.

8.6 Use of labour inputs on plot cultivation

Labour force in agricultural activities included household members, hired labour and other exchanged labour that worked on a particular plot for any activity during the 2014/15 agricultural season. Overall, results indicated a higher proportion (95 percent) of female members of the household contributing to the agricultural labour force than their male counterparts (83 percent).

Results indicate that, there is a higher proportion (94 percent) of female members of the household contributing to the agricultural labour force in male-headed households. In contrast, the proportion of male members of the household contributing to the agricultural labour force in female-headed households is lower (49 percent).

Across regions, results further indicate that the Central Region had a higher proportion (96 percent) of female members of the household contributing to the agricultural labour force compared to the other two regions which recorded 94 percent each of labour force from female members of the household.

About 33 percent of the plots used at least one child member of the household while 9 percent of the labour force was a hired labour. Nearly one out of 10 plots used exchange labour, whereby one works at another person's plot for free and vice versa. It was also observed that household heads with no education had a greater contribution of at one female member of the household on the agricultural labour force (95 percent).

Table 8.6 Proportion of plots by type of labour input used, Malawi, 2015/16

Background Characteristics	HH Male	HH Female	HH Children	Hired	Exchange
Malawi	82.8	95.0	33.4	9.0	11.1
Residence					
Urban	80.8	91.2	29.9	22.4	16.7
Rural	83.0	95.3	33.6	8.2	10.8
Region					
North	87.4	93.6	39.7	9.2	16.6
Central	86.6	95.9	34.2	9.8	10.5
Southern	77.6	94.3	31.1	8.1	10.7
Sex of Household head					
Male	96.2	93.6	32.1	9.8	9.4
Female	48.8	98.8	36.6	7.0	15.7
Age of HH head					
15 - 24	75.2	89.8	9.7	5.6	15.2
25 -34	82.9	95.6	24.0	8.2	11.5
35 - 49	89.0	96.5	47.7	9.3	7.5
50 - 64	82.5	95.3	33.7	9.9	11.2
65 and above	72.7	93.0	25.7	10.0	17.1
Marital Status					
Never Married	74.6	55.8	8.3	10.5	15.5
Married	93.2	97.0	33.4	9.6	9.4
Divorced/Separated	52.3	87.6	38.4	6.8	13.6
Widowed	51.9	93.5	30.3	7.7	19.0
Education HH head					
None	81.7	95.4	34.6	6.9	11.1
Primary	85.9	94.9	26.1	13.8	11.5
Secondary	88.8	92.7	30.0	19.2	11.5
Tertiary	91.4	87.8	22.2	46.1	11.6
District					
Chitipa	87.1	95.3	39.6	4.6	16.5
Karonga	87.5	94.1	41.1	5.3	14.3
Nkhata Bay	86.5	93.1	36.7	7.8	10.3
Rumphi	91.0	93.8	46.5	8.4	10.5
Mzimba	85.7	91.7	36.2	16.4	26.4
Likoma	69.8	96.3	23.9	0.0	0.0
Mzuzu City	84.6	91.8	25.3	31.5	22.0
Kasungu	91.6	97.2	47.9	8.2	15.1
Nkhotakota	88.9	97.2	38.7	9.7	13.8
Ntchisi	89.6	95.9	31.7	10.3	13.9
Dowa	92.3	96.3	44.0	10.5	14.3
Salima	80.0	92.1	26.7	9.5	6.8
Lilongwe	84.5	96.1	29.7	10.4	7.8
Mchinji	86.1	97.5	31.4	4.0	6.2
Dedza	84.5	95.3	27.6	8.3	8.1
Ntcheu	78.7	95.1	27.3	7.9	7.8
Lilongwe City	82.7	91.8	21.2	34.3	16.4
Mangochi	69.0	94.5	22.4	3.4	10.7
Machinga	79.4	95.4	39.1	6.2	12.6
Zomba	82.6	96.1	43.8	12.6	14.6
Chiradzulu	79.7	93.8	33.2	8.9	7.8
Blantyre	78.6	94.3	29.3	8.7	10.5
Mwanza	77.2	95.9	25.5	11.3	5.6
Thyolo	74.9	92.2	30.0	8.3	9.2
Mulanje	78.1	95.1	27.6	7.8	11.6
Phalombe	78.5	96.7	26.9	4.2	8.9
Chikwawa	81.4	95.8	35.3	8.3	12.1
Nsanje	83.9	92.5	30.9	7.1	11.5

Table 8.6 continued

Background Characteristics	HH Male	HH Female	HH Children	Hired	Exchange
Balaka	76.2	93.9	29.0	10.9	7.9
Neno	83.0	92.2	29.2	12.1	6.7
Zomba City	81.8	84.7	25.3	19.2	32.7
Blantyre City	73.9	85.4	25.7	23.3	19.3

8.7 Cropping patterns

The Agricultural module also collected information on the type of cropping patterns practiced by the household within their plots during the two seasons. Survey results show that about 53 percent of plots in Malawi are intercropped. In urban areas 57 percent of the plots that were intercropped compared to 53 percent in rural areas. Overall, a higher proportion of plots were intercropped with two crops (67 percent) compared to those plots that were intercropped with three and four crops at 23 and 5 percent respectively. Across regions, the Southern Region registered the highest proportion of plots that were intercropped (69 percent) compared to the Northern and Central Regions which registered 44 and 42 percent respectively.

Table 8.7 Proportion of intercropped plots by number of crops grown, Malawi 2015/16

Background Characteristics	Intercropped	Number of crops			
		2	3	4	5
Malawi	53.4	66.9	23.1	4.9	0.9
Residence					
Urban	56.8	67.6	20.9	4.0	1.2
Rural	53.1	66.8	23.2	5.0	0.9
Region					
North	43.6	82.0	13.2	0.4	0.0
Central	41.6	77.1	15.2	1.8	0.2
Southern	68.9	57.8	29.8	7.7	1.6
Sex of Household head					
Male	50.9	68.2	21.8	4.3	0.8
Female	59.9	64.0	25.8	6.4	1.2
15 - 24	56.9	69.2	22.1	3.7	0.9
25 -34	53.5	67.1	24.1	4.1	0.9
35 - 49	51.4	68.6	22.0	4.9	0.8
50 - 64	53.2	64.9	23.4	5.5	0.8
65 and above	56.5	64.3	23.8	6.3	1.4
Marital Status					
Never Married	44.3	72.5	19.1	6.7	0.0
Married	51.2	67.7	22.5	4.3	0.9
Divorced/Separated	61.2	63.4	26.6	6.6	0.8
Widowed	59.6	66.0	22.5	6.7	1.3
Education HH head					
None	54.4	66.3	23.5	5.1	0.9
Primary	52.9	65.4	25.5	4.4	0.7
Secondary	47.9	72.7	17.4	4.6	1.3
Tertiary	38.2	67.0	23.0	1.4	0.0
District					

Table 8.7 continued

Background Characteristics	Intercropped	2	3	4	5
		84.9	13.3	0.2	0.0
Karonga	40.7	90.0	5.8	0.0	0.0
Nkhata Bay	38.5	64.2	15.7	1.3	0.0
Rumphu	42.0	71.7	21.6	0.3	0.0
Mzimba	36.3	86.1	12.1	0.8	0.0
Likoma	62.0	86.8	9.4	0.0	0.0
Mzuzu City	39.2	68.0	24.4	0.0	0.0
Kasungu	44.0	73.0	19.9	4.1	0.0
Nkhotakota	32.3	84.8	9.0	0.0	0.0
Ntchisi	30.3	85.1	9.8	0.5	0.0
Dowa	43.7	71.5	22.3	3.5	0.0
Salima	32.0	95.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Lilongwe	42.0	75.1	16.2	1.0	0.1
Mchinji	39.3	71.6	11.8	2.9	0.7
Dedza	41.5	84.6	12.6	0.6	0.0
Ntcheu	45.5	86.9	10.3	1.0	0.0
Lilongwe City	55.4	70.4	14.2	0.0	1.0
Mangochi	36.3	84.6	12.2	0.5	0.0
Machinga	73.1	49.6	35.8	10.3	1.1
Zomba	75.9	48.4	34.6	10.6	2.5
Chiradzulu	86.4	42.8	36.9	13.5	2.7
Blantyre	79.7	52.1	38.7	5.8	0.8
Mwanza	85.0	66.8	26.1	4.7	0.6
Thyolo	90.9	49.1	35.9	9.4	2.9
Mulanje	82.2	63.2	28.8	6.5	1.1
Phalombe	76.4	70.7	21.4	5.2	1.7
Chikwawa	47.1	68.2	19.4	2.2	0.0
Nsanje	48.0	81.0	13.7	3.9	0.0
Balaka	55.7	72.6	19.7	4.3	0.9
Neno	66.5	60.6	30.2	4.6	0.6
Zomba City	64.4	59.2	33.3	5.9	0.5
Blantyre City	52.1	75.9	19.6	0.0	0.0

8.8 Types of crops cultivated

Lack of food and inadequate nutrition are underlying causes of poverty. Hunger and food insecure people find it impossible to build the necessary human, physical and social capital (or assets) that would enable them to raise their welfare level on a sustainable basis (FAO, 2004). The objective of this chapter is to present a picture on how much staple and other foods the small holder sector produced to avert hunger and malnourishment.

Respondents were asked what crops were cultivated on a particular plot between the two agricultural seasons (2014/15-2015/16) and the area of the plot under cultivation was measured.

Plot size was obtained in two fold, first the respondents were asked how large the plot under cultivation in acres (self reported) was and secondly the interviewer had to physically take plot measurement using the GPS. Overall, results show that 76 percent of

the plots were under maize on an average plot area of 0.8 acres. Analysis by residence indicates that about 83 percent of the plots among urban households were planted with maize while 75 percent of the plots among the rural households were under maize. For those households that grew maize, 83 percent were female-headed households while 73 percent were male-headed households. Across regions, the Southern region had the highest proportion of households that grew maize (87 percent) on an average land area of 0.67 acres and pigeon peas (44 percent) while the Central region led in the proportion of households that grew groundnuts (14 percent). Production of beans was higher among the households in the Northern region (13 percent) than the Central and Southern regions (12 percent and 5 percent) respectively. It was also observed that about 10 percent of the plots in Malawi were under groundnuts.

Table 8.8 Proportion of plots by type of crop cultivated and average acreage, Malawi 2015/16

Background characteristics	Maize	Average maize acreage	Pigeon peas	Average Pigeon peas acreage	G/Nuts	Average G/Nuts acreage	Tobacco	Average Tobacco acreage	Beans	Average Beans acreage	Soya beans	Average Soya beans acreage	Rice	Average Rice acreage
Malawi	75.7	0.8	19.3	0.5	10.2	0.7	4.2	1.2	9.3	0.5	6.8	0.8	3.0	0.6
Residence														
Urban	82.7	0.7	14.9	0.4	8.1	0.5	1.8	1.2	15.9	0.5	6.8	0.5	3.0	0.6
Rural	75.2	0.8	19.6	0.5	10.4	0.7	4.4	1.2	8.8	0.5	6.7	0.8	3.0	0.6
Region														
North	65.9	0.8	1.9	0.4	8.0	0.6	5.6	1.2	12.7	0.5	4.9	0.8	11.9	0.6
Central	67.9	1.0	0.7	0.8	14.4	0.8	7.1	1.2	12.1	0.6	12.0	0.8	1.4	0.6
Southern	86.7	0.7	44.3	0.5	5.8	0.6	0.6	0.7	5.3	0.4	1.1	0.6	2.9	0.5
Sex of Household head														
Male	73.0	0.9	17.1	0.5	10.1	0.8	5.4	1.2	9.1	0.6	7.3	0.8	3.1	0.7
Female	82.7	0.7	24.9	0.4	10.4	0.6	1.3	1.0	9.7	0.4	5.4	0.6	2.6	0.4
Age of HH head														
15 - 24	79.1	0.6	21.7	0.4	8.3	0.5	3.2	0.6	9.6	0.4	7.3	0.6	3.8	0.3
25 -34	75.4	0.7	18.7	0.4	8.8	0.7	4.6	1.1	9.5	0.5	7.2	0.6	3.2	0.5
35 - 49	74.8	0.9	18.9	0.5	10.6	0.7	4.9	1.3	9.2	0.6	7.4	0.8	2.7	0.6
50 - 64	74.9	1.0	19.2	0.5	10.3	0.8	3.9	1.3	9.4	0.6	6.3	0.9	3.2	0.8
65 and above	77.7	0.8	20.0	0.5	12.4	0.7	3.1	1.0	9.1	0.6	5.0	0.7	2.5	0.6
Marital Status														
Never Married	78.6	0.7	17.9	0.4	12.2	0.6	3.8	0.5	8.1	0.4	6.3	0.5	2.3	0.3
Married	73.3	0.9	17.7	0.5	10.4	0.8	5.1	1.2	9.1	0.6	7.2	0.8	3.1	0.6
Divorced/Separated	83.3	0.7	26.5	0.5	9.3	0.6	1.6	0.6	9.2	0.3	5.7	0.7	2.2	0.5
Widowed	82.5	0.7	22.0	0.4	9.9	0.6	1.3	1.3	10.8	0.4	4.8	0.6	2.6	0.4
Education HH head														
None	76.5	0.8	19.7	0.5	9.7	0.7	4.0	1.1	9.0	0.5	6.8	0.8	3.0	0.6
Primary	72.6	0.9	20.7	0.4	11.1	0.7	5.6	1.2	10.9	0.5	6.9	0.8	3.2	0.5
Secondary	72.4	0.9	16.3	0.4	12.9	0.8	5.0	1.6	10.5	0.5	6.6	0.8	2.5	0.6
Tertiary	74.5	0.9	12.1	0.5	11.5	0.7	1.5	1.8	10.1	0.7	5.8	1.0	4.3	0.7
District														
Chitipa	73.2	0.9	0.7	0.8	9.4	0.5	4.7	0.8	27.7	0.5	2.5	0.8	0.7	0.3
Karonga	55.5	0.6	5.8	0.3	4.4	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.0	0.0	36.9	0.6
Nkhata Bay	73.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	4.8	0.3	1.7	1.4	5.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	19.0	0.9
Rumphi	69.0	1.0	0.6	0.5	10.8	0.6	16.5	1.2	14.1	0.6	4.3	0.5	0.2	1.0
Mzimba	62.3	1.1	0.3	0.9	11.2	0.8	6.8	1.6	11.9	0.7	16.4	0.9	0.0	0.0
Likoma	95.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	1.0
Mzuzu City	87.7	0.8	0.0	0.0	3.5	0.4	1.6	1.0	30.0	0.6	3.5	0.4	0.6	1.0
Kasungu	59.6	1.3	0.2	3.2	15.1	1.0	11.4	1.7	15.8	0.7	14.8	0.9	0.1	0.3

Table 8.8 continued

Background characteristics	Maize	Maize acreage	Pigeon peas	Pigeon peas acreage	G/Nuts	G/Nuts acreage	Tobacco	Tobacco acreage	Beans	Beans acreage	Soya beans	Soya beans acreage	Rice	Rice acreage
Nkhotakota	57.1	0.7	0.8	0.2	12.8	1.0	0.2	1.4	1.0	0.4	1.4	0.8	27.6	0.7
Ntchisi	54.6	1.3	0.3	2.4	11.8	1.0	10.8	1.1	12.2	0.9	22.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Dowa	62.3	1.1	0.2	0.2	16.0	0.8	12.2	1.0	12.7	0.4	11.2	0.7	0.0	0.0
Salima	77.4	0.9	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.0	4.3	0.5
Lilongwe	68.4	0.9	0.0	0.0	15.0	0.8	9.5	1.2	10.7	0.5	12.5	0.6	0.0	0.0
Mchinji	61.0	1.1	0.1	2.0	18.1	0.8	4.8	1.0	3.8	0.5	19.1	1.0	0.0	0.0
Dedza	79.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	14.8	0.6	1.4	0.5	21.5	0.7	10.1	0.7	0.0	0.0
Ntcheu	89.5	0.9	4.9	0.0	10.1	0.6	1.5	0.9	19.5	0.7	5.2	0.7	0.0	0.0
Lilongwe City	76.2	0.8	2.9	0.6	11.9	0.6	3.7	0.5	10.5	0.4	13.9	0.4	0.7	1.1
Mangochi	92.2	1.1	14.2	0.6	8.8	0.8	0.3	2.4	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.5	1.4	0.2
Machinga	82.3	0.8	54.0	0.6	10.0	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	12.0	0.7
Zomba	85.5	0.6	50.8	0.4	10.4	0.4	1.9	0.5	7.5	0.4	1.6	0.3	2.0	0.8
Chiradzulu	94.4	0.4	56.5	0.4	4.2	0.4	0.7	0.3	17.4	0.3	1.5	0.6	0.9	0.2
Blantyre	94.4	0.5	53.4	0.4	8.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	9.0	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.0
Mwanza	96.7	0.9	70.7	0.6	5.3	0.9	0.0	0.0	3.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Thyolo	98.0	0.5	70.5	0.4	1.8	0.3	0.0	0.0	6.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0
Mulanje	91.6	0.5	66.9	0.4	3.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.5	1.5	1.0	3.6	0.4
Phalombe	88.7	0.5	50.8	0.5	2.5	0.5	2.7	0.6	0.6	0.4	6.0	0.8	3.7	0.4
Chikwawa	47.2	0.9	13.0	0.6	1.6	0.8	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.6	0.2	0.5	5.3	0.4
Nsanje	54.0	0.7	12.0	0.5	6.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.3
Balaka	85.8	1.0	30.7	0.6	6.1	0.8	0.3	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.7
Neno	94.1	0.9	33.5	0.5	5.0	0.5	0.1	0.5	6.4	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
Zomba City	97.6	0.5	36.7	0.3	8.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	17.8	0.3	2.5	0.2	0.4	0.4
Blantyre City	93.6	0.5	24.0	0.5	5.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.5

Chapter 9

WELFARE

9.0 Introduction

Welfare is defined as availability of resources and presence of conditions required for reasonably comfortable, healthy, and secure living. This chapter highlights the general welfare indicators of the household, measured by the household's perceptions of well-being in terms of adequacy or inadequacy of food consumption, health care, housing etc. It also highlights issues on how households perceive their own economic status as well as that of their friends and the perceptions are in terms of clothes changes for the household head, whether they sleep on a bed and mattress, blankets etc. The chapter also discusses the sleeping materials that household heads use to cover themselves during the cold season and hot seasons.

9.1 Welfare in terms of basic needs

The IHS4 collected data from households on their perception towards basic needs of food, housing, clothing and health care. The survey asked whether households felt they had more than adequate, adequate, or inadequate food, clothing, housing and health care. The aim was to have a subjective assessment of well-being which would in turn be compared with the expenditure and income poverty.

It can be observed from Table 9.1A that 64 percent of the households felt that they had inadequate food consumption for their household's needs. This proportion is higher compared to what was reported in the IHS3 2010/11 (57 percent). It can also be noted that there has been no improvement in housing conditions since the proportion of households that reported inadequate housing increased to 56 percent in 2016/17 from 41 in 2010/2011.

In terms of place of residence, rural households reported higher proportions (69 percent) of food inadequacy compared to 42 percent in urban areas. 60 percent of households reported inadequacy in housing in rural areas compared to 37 percent in urban areas. Considering sex of respondents, the results of the survey indicate that female-headed households were most

vulnerable in terms of both food consumption and housing as compared to male-headed households. A difference can be observed when it comes to inadequate food consumption where 71 percent of female-headed households reported that they felt they had inadequate food consumption as compared to 61 percent of male-headed households. There was a smaller difference in terms of housing conditions where 58 percent of female-headed households reported that they felt they had inadequate housing as compared to 55 percent of male-headed households.

Regionally, Central Region reported higher percentages of inadequate food consumption and housing followed by Southern Region and then Northern Region (refer to Table 9.1A). At the district level, Machinga reported the highest proportion (85 percent) of households that felt they had inadequate food consumption. In terms of housing conditions, both Machinga and Salima registered the highest proportions of households with inadequate housing conditions at 71 percent.

Table 9.1B reveals that 55 percent of the households felt they had inadequate health care as compared to what was reported in 2010/11 (33 percent). Considering place of residence, the table reveals that 59 percent of the rural households felt they had inadequate healthcare as compared to 44 percent of their counterparts in urban areas. Furthermore, it can be observed that 59 percent of female-headed households reported inadequate healthcare as compared to 53 percent of male-headed households. At the district level, 72 percent of household in Salima reported that they felt that they experienced inadequate healthcare services followed by Zomba at 71 percent and then Machinga at 70 percent.

Table 9. 1a Proportion of households reporting inadequate consumption of food, housing and health care by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Food				Housing			
	Inadequate	Adequate	More than adequate	Total	Inadequate	Adequate	More than adequate	Total
Malawi	63.8	32.2	4.0	100	55.6	39.1	5.3	100
Place of residence								
Urban	41.6	51.4	7.0	100	37.1	55.3	7.6	100
Rural	69.0	27.6	3.3	100	59.9	35.3	4.8	100
Region								
North	55.2	38.5	6.3	100	49.2	42.8	8.0	100
Centre	65.0	31.7	3.4	100	58.6	37.2	4.2	100
South	64.4	31.4	4.2	100	53.9	40.2	5.9	100
Sex of household head								
Male	60.8	34.7	4.5	100	54.8	39.9	5.3	100
Female	71.1	25.9	3.0	100	57.5	37.1	5.4	100
Age of household head								
15-24	65.1	31.6	3.3	100	57.6	38.5	4.0	100
25-34	61.7	33.5	4.8	100	54.8	39.4	5.7	100
35-49	62.0	34.3	3.8	100	55.9	39.2	4.9	100
50-64	63.8	31.8	4.5	100	53.3	41.0	5.7	100
65+	71.6	25.2	3.2	100	57.4	36.3	6.3	100
Marital Status of household head								
Never married	41.3	51.1	7.6	100	36.6	56.4	6.9	100
Married	61.9	33.7	4.4	100	55.3	39.4	5.3	100
Divorced/Separated	70.5	27.0	2.5	100	58.6	35.9	5.5	100
Widow/Widower	72.5	24.8	2.8	100	58.3	36.5	5.2	100
Education Level of household head								
None	71.6	25.6	2.8	100	61.6	34.2	4.2	100
Primary	60.1	36.9	3.0	100	51.6	42.9	5.5	100
Secondary	44.4	48.7	7.0	100	41.2	51.6	7.2	100
Tertiary	12.9	69.5	17.5	100	17.4	65.1	17.5	100
District								
Chitipa	52.6	40.0	7.4	100	49.0	46.6	4.4	100
Karonga	52.2	43.7	4.0	100	44.9	50.0	5.1	100
Nkhata Bay	61.5	29.9	8.5	100	64.8	25.2	10.0	100
Rumphi	66.8	28.2	5.0	100	59.2	32.4	8.4	100
Mzimba	60.7	36.0	3.3	100	46.9	43.2	9.9	100
Likoma	57.1	27.0	15.8	100	50.7	28.2	21.1	100
Mzuzu City	40.2	49.7	10.1	100	34.1	54.5	11.4	100
Kasungu	73.0	23.1	3.9	100	59.5	33.3	7.3	100
Nkhotakota	62.7	35.5	1.8	100	57.6	39.3	3.2	100
Ntchisi	65.2	32.1	2.7	100	58.6	38.6	2.8	100
Dowa	65.7	31.5	2.8	100	63.5	34.1	2.4	100
Salima	69.7	28.1	2.2	100	70.8	27.0	2.2	100
Lilongwe	69.1	28.4	2.6	100	63.4	33.7	2.8	100
Mchinji	74.6	19.7	5.7	100	61.4	30.9	7.7	100
Dedza	71.2	26.3	2.6	100	67.4	29.7	2.8	100
Ntcheu	64.8	29.3	5.9	100	60.0	35.0	5.0	100
Lilongwe City	41.1	55.4	3.5	100	33.4	61.4	5.2	100
Mangochi	71.8	28.2	-	100	62.9	36.5	0.5	100
Machinga	84.8	14.3	0.9	100	70.8	28.1	1.0	100
Zomba	80.5	13.8	5.7	100	70.2	23.4	6.4	100
Chiradzulu	59.1	33.7	7.3	100	42.6	46.2	11.3	100
Blantyre	60.7	33.7	5.5	100	45.3	47.0	7.7	100
Mwanza	62.7	32.0	5.3	100	56.1	38.4	5.5	100
Thyolo	59.4	32.4	8.2	100	47.8	42.7	9.6	100
Mulanje	54.6	41.1	4.3	100	47.3	46.8	5.9	100
Phalombe	69.2	29.7	1.0	100	53.7	41.4	4.8	100
Chikwawa	72.0	25.7	2.3	100	56.4	38.2	5.4	100
Nsanje	77.3	21.6	1.1	100	63.7	32.0	4.3	100
Balaka	76.8	22.8	0.4	100	64.8	33.1	2.1	100
Neno	66.3	27.6	6.0	100	61.5	30.7	7.8	100
Zomba City	44.8	47.8	7.4	100	45.1	43.4	11.5	100
Blantyre City	39.4	51.8	8.8	100	37.9	53.0	9.1	100

Table 9. 1b Proportion of households reporting inadequate health care by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Healthcare		
	Inadequate	Adequate	Total
Malawi	54.8	45.2	100
Place of residence			
Urban	35.1	64.9	100
Rural	59.4	40.6	100
Region			
North	45.0	55.0	100
Centre	59.6	40.4	100
South	52.1	47.9	100
Sex of household head			
Male	53.3	46.7	100
Female	58.5	41.5	100
Age of household head			
15-24	55.6	44.4	100
25-34	52.4	47.6	100
35-49	52.9	47.1	100
50-64	55.3	44.7	100
65+	62.9	37.1	100
Marital Status of household head			
Never married	41.4	58.6	100
Married	53.4	46.6	100
Divorced/Separated	58.2	41.8	100
Widow/Widower	61.8	38.2	100
Education Level of household head			
None	60.3	39.7	100
Primary	51.4	48.6	100
Secondary	41.6	58.4	100
Tertiary	18.1	81.9	100
District			
Chitipa	36.3	63.7	100
Karonga	28.3	71.7	100
Nkhata Bay	60.4	39.6	100
Rumphi	58.5	41.5	100
Mzimba	58.1	41.9	100
Likoma	46.1	53.9	100
Mzuzu City	39.5	60.5	100
Kasungu	62.0	38.0	100
Nkhotakota	64.4	35.6	100
Ntchisi	62.5	37.5	100
Dowa	57.7	42.3	100
Salima	71.8	28.2	100
Lilongwe	62.7	37.3	100
Mchinji	58.5	41.5	100
Dedza	70.7	29.3	100
Ntcheu	61.6	38.4	100
Lilongwe City	38.5	61.5	100
Mangochi	64.7	35.3	100
Machinga	70.0	30.0	100
Zomba	70.6	29.4	100
Chiradzulu	50.5	49.5	100
Blantyre	50.1	49.9	100
Mwanza	48.9	51.1	100
Thyolo	53.6	46.4	100
Mulanje	31.6	68.4	100
Phalombe	33.6	66.4	100
Chikwawa	59.4	40.6	100
Nsanje	63.7	36.3	100
Balaka	69.1	30.9	100
Neno	46.1	53.9	100
Zomba City	39.7	60.3	100
Blantyre City	27.6	72.4	100

9.2 Perception of household current economic well-being

The examination of perceived economic wellbeing of households employed three methods (personal, friends and neighbours) of assessment each having six categories. Respondents were asked to consider a photo of a ladder with six steps. The first step stood for the extremely poor and the sixth and highest represented the richest. In the analysis of data these categories were further truncated to four categories with the lowest category being very poor (step 1), followed by poor (step 2), average (steps 3 and 4) and rich (steps 5 and 6). On assessment of the household against their neighbours and friends, the categories were broken down to three. The categories are whether the household placed themselves on the same, lower or higher step.

Table 9.2 indicates that 74 percent of the households in Malawi were poor using subjective self-assessment. The table further reveals that 36 percent of the households in Malawi were extremely poor by self-assessment with 7 percent of the households being perceived rich. The proportions were higher in rural areas with 41 percent of them being perceived very poor by self as compared to 15 percent for their urban counterparts.

At the district level, Zomba and Mchinji reported the highest proportion (both at 58 percent) of households being perceived poor by self followed by Machinga at 52 percent.

In comparison with most of the neighbours and friends, it can be observed that most of the households in Malawi felt that they were on the same step as most of their neighbours and friends (47 percent and 54 percent respectively). Thirty-seven percent of the households felt that they were richer than most of their neighbours with 35 percent of the population reporting that they felt richer than most of their friends.

No major differences were reported as regards to place of residence where 38 percent of the households in rural areas felt that they were richer than most of their neighbours relative to 37 percent of the urban households. As regards to most friends, 35 percent of the rural households felt that they were richer than most of their friends as compared to 33 percent of the urban households.

Forty-two percent of female-headed households felt that they were richer than most of their neighbours relative to 36 percent of the male-headed households. Considering most friends, 39 percent of female-headed households felt that they were richer than most of their friends as compared to 33 percent of the male-headed households.

Table 9. 2 Percentage distributions of household perceived current economic well-being by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Self subjective assessment					Against most neighbours				Against most friends			
	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Rich	Total	Poor	Same	Rich	Total	Poor	Same	Rich	Total
Malawi	35.8	38.5	18.7	7.0	100	15.2	47.4	37.4	100	11.7	53.7	34.5	100
Place of residence													
Urban	15.4	36.0	32.1	16.5	100	15.9	46.9	37.2	100	12.1	55.4	32.5	100
Rural	40.6	39.1	15.6	4.7	100	15.0	47.5	37.5	100	11.6	53.3	35.0	100
Region													
North	28.2	42.0	21.5	8.3	100	14.8	45.9	39.3	100	10.4	50.3	39.2	100
Centre	39.9	38.3	16.5	5.3	100	14.8	45.3	39.9	100	10.6	52.3	37.1	100
South	33.5	38.0	20.2	8.3	100	15.6	49.7	34.7	100	13.1	55.7	31.2	100
Sex of household head													
Male	31.8	40.0	20.4	7.8	100	17.6	47.0	35.5	100	12.9	54.2	32.9	100
Female	45.8	34.8	14.5	5.0	100	9.3	48.4	42.2	100	8.8	52.7	38.6	100
Age of household head													
Up to 24	42.1	39.6	15.3	3.0	100	11.3	45.3	43.4	100	7.8	54.3	37.9	100
25-34	33.5	39.6	20.1	6.8	100	14.2	46.7	39.1	100	10.9	56.0	33.1	100
35-49	31.5	40.2	20.0	8.3	100	17.4	48.0	34.6	100	13.3	53.3	33.4	100
50-64	33.0	38.1	20.3	8.7	100	18.6	49.7	31.7	100	13.9	53.0	33.2	100
65+	50.3	31.8	13.4	4.4	100	10.2	45.7	44.1	100	9.5	50.9	39.6	100
Marital Status of household head													
Never married	24.2	39.7	25.1	11.0	100	15.8	44.7	39.5	100	10.9	56.5	32.6	100
Married	32.1	39.7	20.5	7.7	100	17.8	47.5	34.7	100	13.2	54.0	32.8	100
Divorced/Separated	44.7	38.4	12.8	4.0	100	8.8	48.7	42.5	100	6.9	54.0	39.1	100
Widow/Widower	49.7	31.8	13.8	4.7	100	7.6	45.9	46.5	100	8.8	51.5	39.7	100
Education Level of household head													
None	43.9	38.6	13.9	3.6	100	12.6	46.6	40.7	100	10.0	52.6	37.4	100
Primary	24.6	47.4	21.7	6.2	100	18.3	49.8	31.8	100	14.9	53.7	31.4	100
Secondary	16.2	39.0	31.3	13.5	100	22.0	45.9	32.2	100	15.4	55.6	28.9	100
Tertiary	2.3	9.3	45.4	43.0	100	24.5	61.2	14.2	100	18.1	67.1	14.9	100
District													
Chitipa	35.9	46.8	15.2	2.0	100	13.6	49.7	36.7	100	9.4	53.5	37.1	100
Karonga	32.9	41.0	18.6	7.5	100	14.0	42.3	43.8	100	8.5	47.0	44.5	100
Nkhata Bay	23.6	50.0	22.1	4.3	100	13.8	48.2	38.0	100	10.7	49.3	40.0	100
Rumphi	24.5	46.7	22.1	6.7	100	18.4	50.7	30.9	100	15.8	46.9	37.2	100
Mzimba	34.3	38.5	18.6	8.5	100	14.3	45.2	40.6	100	12.4	52.0	35.5	100
Likoma	13.4	46.6	30.1	9.8	100	16.8	50.9	32.4	100	13.9	56.0	30.2	100
Mzuzu City	16.1	29.9	33.2	20.8	100	15.4	41.2	43.4	100	7.3	54.5	38.3	100
Kasungu	45.8	36.4	16.2	1.6	100	13.7	36.1	50.2	100	10.5	50.4	39.1	100
Nkhotakota	35.8	38.0	21.2	4.9	100	15.7	60.8	23.5	100	15.4	60.9	23.7	100
Ntchisi	40.4	34.2	18.8	6.6	100	21.0	49.0	30.0	100	16.0	46.8	37.2	100
Dowa	44.8	35.5	14.8	4.9	100	19.0	29.3	51.8	100	13.5	49.7	36.8	100
Salima	48.4	32.3	12.1	7.1	100	11.1	47.6	41.3	100	8.4	52.5	39.1	100
Lilongwe	46.1	38.8	11.1	4.0	100	15.2	42.9	41.9	100	9.9	52.0	38.1	100
Mchinji	57.6	29.4	10.9	2.1	100	11.3	39.0	49.7	100	7.1	60.7	32.2	100
Dedza	41.4	42.4	12.3	3.9	100	12.8	58.0	29.2	100	10.9	44.2	44.8	100
Ntcheu	32.0	49.5	15.0	3.5	100	15.9	60.9	23.2	100	10.7	50.0	39.4	100
Lilongwe City	13.7	40.4	32.9	13.0	100	14.5	45.9	39.6	100	9.1	57.4	33.4	100
Mangochi	40.0	35.0	18.1	7.0	100	23.7	34.4	41.8	100	18.6	48.4	33.0	100
Machinga	51.6	34.6	12.9	1.0	100	14.4	55.5	30.1	100	10.8	55.6	33.7	100
Zomba	58.3	30.8	9.5	1.4	100	12.8	52.8	34.4	100	8.8	55.0	36.2	100
Chiradzulu	23.8	49.0	19.4	7.9	100	9.6	60.3	30.1	100	8.3	65.3	26.4	100
Blantyre	30.4	39.9	21.7	8.0	100	15.8	50.8	33.4	100	13.6	57.6	28.8	100
Mwanza	31.3	33.6	24.7	10.5	100	14.8	38.9	46.3	100	12.6	39.8	47.6	100
Thyolo	24.3	46.5	22.4	6.8	100	11.7	59.8	28.5	100	11.6	62.5	25.9	100
Mulanje	30.1	50.6	15.7	3.6	100	12.4	66.0	21.6	100	11.6	63.0	25.4	100
Phalombe	45.2	46.8	7.0	1.0	100	13.7	67.9	18.4	100	11.8	63.0	25.2	100
Chikwawa	39.8	27.6	21.4	11.2	100	18.2	29.6	52.1	100	11.9	49.3	38.8	100
Nsanje	36.6	31.9	18.9	12.5	100	15.2	31.5	53.3	100	13.6	45.5	40.9	100
Balaka	39.1	33.9	21.1	5.9	100	19.3	46.6	34.2	100	16.1	53.2	30.7	100
Neno	30.8	40.0	20.4	8.8	100	15.4	38.0	46.6	100	10.6	40.5	48.9	100
Zomba City	20.7	31.1	30.3	17.9	100	16.6	43.9	39.4	100	9.3	51.5	39.1	100
Blantyre City	13.4	31.4	34.9	20.2	100	15.4	52.0	32.6	100	15.8	57.1	27.1	100

9.3 Use of current income

Table 9.3 reveals that over half of the population in Malawi had an income base which would allow them to either meet their daily expenses or build their savings. The table further indicates that 2 out of 5 households had income which allowed them to meet their daily expenses and 24 percent are not satisfied with their current base of income which is supplemented by borrowing. Twenty-one percent of the household indicated that their income was not sufficient so they had to rely on their savings and 10 percent indicated that they do a little saving while only 6 percent reported that their income is sufficient and allows them to build their savings. Forty-one percent of the urban households and 37 percent of the rural households reported that their income base allows them meet their expenses.

Minor differences can be observed when we consider sex of household head with 38 percent of male-headed households and 36 percent of female-headed households indicated that their income allowed them to meet their expenses. Nineteen percent of male-headed households and 13 percent of female-headed households reported that their incomes either allowed them to build their savings or allowed them to save just a little. The proportion of households who reported that their income was not sufficient to meet their expenses decreased with the level of education.

Northern Region reported a higher proportion (25 percent) of the population with income that allowed them to build their savings or allowed them to save just a little followed by Southern and Central Regions (about 19 percent and 14 percent, respectively). At district level, Phalombe reported the highest proportion (57 percent) of the population with income that only allowed them to meet their expenses followed by Mulanje and Chiradzulu (56 percent and 52 percent, respectively). The proportion of households with income that allows them to save decreases with decreasing level of education. Thirty-seven percent of the households whose head had tertiary education reported that their income allowed them to build savings compared to 4 percent of those with no education.

Table 9. 3 Percentage distribution of perceived adequacy of households 'current income by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Income allows to build savings	Income allows to save just a little	Income only just meets the expenses	Income not sufficient so need to use savings	Income really not sufficient so need to borrow	Total
Malawi	6.3	11.1	37.3	21.0	24.3	100
Place of residence						
Urban	14.0	18.7	41.0	12.6	13.8	100
Rural	4.5	9.3	36.5	23.0	26.8	100
Region						
North	10.9	14.2	28.1	26.7	20.1	100
Centre	5.4	9.0	33.9	28.7	23.0	100
South	6.2	12.5	42.3	12.5	26.4	100
Sex of household head						
Male	7.2	12.2	37.9	20.9	21.8	100
Female	4.1	8.4	35.9	21.1	30.5	100
Age of household head						
15-24	5.5	8.9	40.4	19.4	25.8	100
25-34	6.5	12.6	38.3	19.1	23.6	100
35-49	6.5	12.4	37.1	20.9	23.1	100
50-64	8.0	10.8	35.2	23.2	22.9	100
65+	3.7	6.9	36.4	23.4	29.6	100
Marital Status of household head						
Never married	14.4	14.7	36.7	16.6	17.6	100
Married	6.8	11.9	37.9	21.2	22.1	100
Divorced/Separated	3.8	9.4	37.0	19.9	30.0	100
Widow/Widower	4.4	7.4	34.6	21.7	31.8	100
Education Level of household head						
None	3.7	8.1	37.1	23.8	27.3	100
Primary	5.0	13.8	39.0	17.8	24.4	100
Secondary	11.1	18.0	40.6	14.3	16.1	100
Tertiary	37.3	30.3	21.8	6.4	4.2	100
District						
Chitipa	1.0	7.2	35.0	37.9	18.8	100
Karonga	3.1	13.9	33.2	29.5	20.3	100
Nkhata Bay	16.4	7.7	30.4	28.5	17.0	100
Rumphi	14.3	9.2	26.3	30.5	19.7	100
Mzimba	9.5	21.6	19.6	19.3	30.0	100
Likoma	25.0	4.9	25.4	31.5	13.2	100
Mzuzu City	24.7	25.5	21.5	12.8	15.5	100
Kasungu	3.9	8.1	32.0	37.3	18.8	100
Nkhotakota	6.4	6.4	18.6	27.6	41.0	100
Ntchisi	5.4	15.6	24.8	19.6	34.5	100
Dowa	1.5	8.8	25.8	42.4	21.4	100
Salima	4.5	9.7	41.8	18.0	26.0	100
Lilongwe	7.0	8.9	39.6	19.8	24.7	100
Mchinji	4.9	1.9	25.3	37.9	30.0	100
Dedza	1.3	4.7	27.1	41.3	25.6	100
Ntcheu	1.9	4.8	27.1	43.7	22.4	100
Lilongwe City	12.7	18.1	51.6	8.8	8.8	100
Mangochi	2.4	5.3	47.5	12.1	32.7	100
Machinga	2.7	4.7	36.1	24.7	31.8	100
Zomba	2.0	6.3	40.3	21.8	29.6	100
Chiradzulu	2.7	11.6	52.4	3.9	29.3	100
Blantyre	3.1	10.5	46.4	13.3	26.7	100
Mwanza	10.8	25.3	17.6	21.0	25.3	100
Thyolo	3.9	11.3	50.2	3.0	31.7	100
Mulanje	14.4	14.1	56.1	5.7	9.6	100
Phalombe	9.3	8.8	57.3	7.4	17.1	100
Chikwawa	4.9	22.9	25.5	15.0	31.7	100
Nsanje	4.6	19.1	24.0	18.9	33.5	100
Balaka	3.3	8.4	36.0	20.7	31.6	100
Neno	7.4	25.4	19.3	20.2	27.6	100
Zomba City	12.1	18.6	45.7	8.3	15.3	100
Blantyre City	15.0	20.5	35.9	12.5	16.1	100

9.4 Welfare in terms of changes of clothing and types of sleeping materials

The IHS4 collected data on the number of changes of clothing owned by household heads⁸ and the type of sleeping materials that they use. Clothing and sleeping materials are basic needs of life that should be accessed by all households. Table 9.4 indicates that 88 percent of the households in Malawi reported that their heads of households had at least three sets of clothes.

In urban areas, 97 percent of households reported that their heads had three sets of clothes while for rural areas they reported 87 percent of the household heads as having three sets of clothing. Minor differences were observed at the regional level where Central Region had the highest number of clothing changes (89.4 percent) followed by Southern and Northern Region (88.5 percent and 81.2 percent, respectively).

Over half of the households (58 percent) reported that their heads slept on a mat or the floor while 24 percent of the household heads slept on a mattress on a bed. Sixty percent of the households in urban areas reported that they were sleeping on a mattress on a bed with rural households reporting only 17 percent for the same. The highest proportion (67 percent) of those that slept on a floor mat was observed in rural areas with urban areas registering 20 percent of its households.

At district level, it can be observed that a higher proportion (77 percent) of households whose heads slept on a mattress on bed was reported by households in Mzuzu city followed by Blantyre city and then Zomba city (74 percent and 71 percent, respectively).

⁸ Number of trousers for men and skirts/dresses for women.

Table 9. 4 Proportion of households where the head has at least two changes of clothes, sleeps on what and under what by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Head had at least three changes	Sleeping materials								
		Mattress on bed	Mat on bed	Bed only	Mattress on floor	Mat on floor	Cloth/sack on floor	Nothing	Other	Total
Malawi	88.2	23.8	7.8	2.0	5.9	58.3	1.6	0.0	0.6	100
Place of residence										-
Urban	95.9	60.1	9.5	1.7	7.1	20.8	0.3	-	0.6	100
Rural	86.5	15.2	7.4	2.1	5.7	67.1	1.8	0.0	0.6	100
Region										-
North	81.2	47.7	18.0	1.2	5.2	26.3	1.0	-	0.7	100
Centre	89.4	18.8	7.3	1.5	5.2	64.7	1.8	0.1	0.8	100
South	88.5	23.8	6.3	2.7	6.7	58.5	1.5	0.0	0.4	100
Sex of household head										-
Male	89.4	26.1	8.4	1.9	5.9	56.1	1.1	0.0	0.4	100
Female	85.4	18.0	6.3	2.3	5.9	63.8	2.6	0.1	1.0	100
Age of HH head										-
15-24	89.9	10.6	5.9	1.2	7.3	73.3	1.3	-	0.4	100
25-34	91.0	22.7	7.2	1.8	7.2	59.2	1.1	-	0.8	100
35-49	89.8	28.3	8.1	2.3	5.4	53.9	1.3	-	0.7	100
50-64	87.6	28.6	8.1	1.6	5.0	55.2	1.1	0.1	0.3	100
65+	78.5	18.0	9.2	3.0	5.1	60.3	3.8	0.1	0.5	100
Marital Status of HH head										-
Never married	94.3	37.4	4.7	1.5	11.3	43.4	1.1	-	0.7	100
Married	89.6	25.8	8.6	2.0	5.8	56.4	1.0	0.0	0.4	100
Divorced/Separated	88.0	14.0	5.0	1.9	5.5	69.0	2.8	-	1.8	100
Widow/Widower	79.7	19.9	7.2	2.3	5.6	60.9	3.4	0.2	0.6	100
Education Level of HH head										-
None	86.0	12.9	7.4	2.2	5.5	69.2	2.1	0.1	0.7	100
Primary	93.1	28.8	10.1	2.9	7.3	50.2	0.5	-	0.2	100
Secondary	95.4	51.9	8.6	1.2	7.8	29.7	0.3	-	0.5	100
Tertiary	97.0	90.1	5.8	0.1	2.5	1.3	-	-	0.1	100
District										-
Chitipa	61.6	28.8	35.5	1.9	4.1	27.6	2.1	-	-	100
Karonga	64.9	49.3	23.5	1.0	2.7	23.4	0.2	-	-	100
Nkhata Bay	97.3	53.7	13.2	2.3	9.0	19.9	0.7	-	1.3	100
Rumphi	87.1	48.4	9.2	1.1	7.1	30.5	0.8	-	3.0	100
Mzimba	88.2	26.7	13.7	0.7	5.4	51.3	1.7	-	0.5	100
Likoma	100.0	68.2	8.8	0.9	9.4	12.3	-	-	0.4	100
Mzuzu City	97.1	76.9	9.3	0.3	4.3	8.2	0.9	-	0.1	100
Kasungu	88.4	15.5	5.2	0.9	2.9	73.7	0.7	-	1.1	100
Nkhotakota	76.8	37.1	7.6	0.3	6.0	48.0	0.5	-	0.5	100
Ntchisi	78.5	15.8	8.6	0.2	5.9	67.7	1.8	-	-	100
Dowa	90.7	11.3	6.2	0.5	3.0	77.4	1.2	0.3	-	100
Salima	87.9	13.4	7.4	1.0	3.5	73.4	1.4	-	-	100
Lilongwe	89.5	12.1	5.3	1.1	6.4	68.8	3.5	-	2.7	100
Mchinji	90.0	12.7	6.9	0.1	2.3	77.5	0.6	-	-	100
Dedza	84.6	8.6	4.7	4.2	4.5	75.3	2.4	-	0.4	100
Ntcheu	92.2	12.5	2.8	3.1	8.2	70.5	2.7	0.3	-	100
Lilongwe City	98.4	48.3	16.7	2.1	7.7	24.6	0.5	-	0.1	100
Mangochi	93.4	16.9	14.1	9.8	5.6	51.7	1.7	-	0.3	100
Machinga	79.1	13.8	9.8	2.4	7.1	65.3	1.6	-	-	100
Zomba	83.4	14.6	10.4	1.9	6.6	64.1	2.1	-	0.2	100
Chiradzulu	92.7	13.5	3.6	2.3	7.2	71.8	1.1	-	0.5	100
Blantyre	88.5	22.9	4.2	2.1	8.5	60.6	0.8	-	0.9	100
Mwanza	85.5	17.4	7.0	0.3	4.1	69.7	1.2	-	0.2	100
Thyolo	90.7	15.4	4.8	1.0	5.2	71.5	1.6	0.2	0.2	100
Mulanje	89.8	19.5	3.4	1.7	9.3	64.4	1.6	-	0.2	100
Phalombe	82.0	5.1	2.5	0.7	7.8	80.1	2.9	-	0.8	100
Chikwawa	75.0	10.7	4.4	-	6.1	76.1	2.8	-	-	100
Nsanje	76.3	11.8	2.9	0.3	2.8	79.0	3.1	-	-	100
Balaka	91.1	18.0	4.7	3.4	7.5	65.9	0.5	-	-	100
Neno	80.6	14.5	3.0	-	5.3	73.8	2.7	-	0.7	100
Zomba City	97.7	70.5	8.7	1.1	4.7	14.6	0.4	-	-	100
Blantyre City	97.9	73.9	3.7	1.0	8.2	12.0	-	-	1.2	100

9.5 Welfare in terms of sleeping materials used in cold and hot season

The IHS4 collected data from households on the type of sleeping materials that their household heads slept under during hot season and cold season. Tables 9.5 and 9.6 provide information on the proportion of households by the sleeping materials they use during cold and hot seasons.

Table 9.5 indicates that 70 percent of the households reported that their household heads sleep under only blankets during cold season. It can also be observed that only 18 percent of the households reported that their heads of household sleep under blankets and bed sheets. At regional level, Northern the North reported a higher proportion (33 percent) of their population that their heads sleep under blankets and sheets during cold season followed by Southern Region and then Central Region at 18 percent and 14 percent, respectively. Blantyre city reported a higher proportion (58 percent) of households whose heads slept under blankets and sheets during the cold season followed by Zomba city and then Likoma district at 49 percent and 42 percent, respectively.

One out of five male-headed households reported that their heads sleep under blankets and sheets during cold season as compared to 14 percent of female-headed households. During cold season the trend is that households with highly educated heads of household reported a higher proportion of sleeping blankets and sheets than those with less educated heads of household. Sixty-eight percent of households whose heads earned tertiary level reported that their heads sleep under blankets and sheets during the cold season as compared to those with no education at all (11 percent).

It can be clearly observed that households use different sleeping materials during different seasons. Table 9.6 indicates that 36 percent of the households in Malawi reported that their heads of households slept under bed sheets only during hot season. A larger proportion (64 percent) of the households whose heads of household slept under sheets only during hot season can be observed in the urban areas as compared rural areas (30 percent). At regional level, 57 percent of the households in the Northern Region reported that their heads of households slept under sheets only during hot seasons. The table further shows that there are no major differences in the use of bed sheets by heads of households as a sleeping material during hot season for both Central and Southern Regions (35percent and 34 percent respectively). At district level, Blantyre city reported a higher proportion (70 percent) of households whose heads use bed sheets as a sleeping material during hot season followed by Karonga and then Lilongwe city at 69 percent and 65 percent respectively. Nsanje district reported the highest proportion (46 percent) of its households whose heads of households use nothing as a sleeping material during the hot season followed by Chikwawa and Machinga (39 percent and 17 percent respectively).

Table 9. 5 Proportion of households where the head sleeps under what during cold season by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Blankets & sheets	Blankets only	Sheets only	Chitenje cloth	Nothing	Other	Total
Malawi	18.0	70.1	5.4	5.6	0.1	0.8	100
Place of residence							
Urban	44.6	47.3	5.4	0.8	-	1.8	100
Rural	11.8	75.4	5.4	6.8	0.1	0.6	100
Region							
North	32.9	59.8	3.8	1.5	-	2.0	100
Centre	14.8	71.8	6.1	6.2	0.1	0.9	100
South	18.2	70.4	5.0	5.9	0.1	0.4	100
Sex of household head							
Male	19.6	71.2	4.8	3.6	0.0	0.8	100
Female	14.3	67.3	6.8	10.8	0.2	0.7	100
Age of household head							
15-24	10.3	78.2	6.3	4.5	-	0.7	100
25-34	18.4	70.8	6.0	3.8	0.0	1.0	100
35-49	20.7	68.8	4.9	4.6	0.1	0.8	100
50-64	19.2	67.8	5.3	6.9	0.1	0.6	100
65+	14.8	68.6	4.8	11.1	0.1	0.6	100
Marital Status of household head							
Never married	28.3	59.1	7.6	3.6	-	1.4	100
Married	19.3	71.7	4.8	3.6	0.0	0.7	100
Divorced/Separated	10.7	71.2	7.4	9.1	0.3	1.3	100
Widow/Widower	16.6	62.8	6.0	13.9	0.2	0.5	100
Education Level of household head							
None	10.7	75.0	5.9	7.5	0.1	0.7	100
Primary	21.8	70.0	4.8	2.8	0.1	0.5	100
Secondary	35.6	58.9	4.2	0.6	-	0.8	100
Tertiary	68.0	26.0	2.5	-	-	3.5	100
District							
Chitipa	32.0	64.6	2.4	0.7	-	0.3	100
Karonga	39.9	54.2	4.4	0.2	-	1.3	100
Nkhata Bay	32.0	57.5	6.8	2.8	-	0.9	100
Rumphi	37.2	55.7	3.3	0.8	-	3.0	100
Mzimba	13.7	77.0	4.5	3.1	-	1.7	100
Likoma	41.9	52.8	4.9	-	-	0.4	100
Mzuzu City	37.9	53.5	1.5	2.0	-	5.1	100
Kasungu	9.6	81.6	3.9	4.3	-	0.7	100
Nkhotakota	19.6	74.3	3.4	2.7	-	-	100
Ntchisi	14.0	76.4	2.2	7.2	0.2	-	100
Dowa	9.0	78.6	4.2	7.2	0.2	0.8	100
Salima	9.2	66.7	16.4	7.2	-	0.5	100
Lilongwe	8.8	76.8	3.6	9.0	-	1.8	100
Mchinji	17.5	71.9	5.9	4.4	-	0.4	100
Dedza	8.1	72.1	8.4	11.4	-	-	100
Ntcheu	9.0	76.1	7.7	6.5	0.3	0.3	100
Lilongwe City	39.6	49.6	8.0	0.7	-	2.1	100
Mangochi	3.9	85.9	6.4	3.3	0.3	0.3	100
Machinga	6.8	78.3	7.9	6.6	-	0.4	100
Zomba	12.1	71.8	9.0	6.8	-	0.3	100
Chiradzulu	14.2	77.1	3.6	5.1	-	-	100
Blantyre	15.7	75.9	3.8	4.0	-	0.6	100
Mwanza	10.4	74.4	6.2	8.7	-	0.2	100
Thyolo	10.8	80.5	2.6	5.6	-	0.4	100
Mulanje	28.9	63.0	3.0	4.9	0.3	-	100
Phalombe	13.1	76.1	2.8	8.0	-	-	100
Chikwawa	9.6	67.3	5.8	17.0	0.3	-	100
Nsanje	7.2	66.5	7.5	18.2	0.2	0.4	100
Balaka	9.9	81.0	5.6	3.4	-	-	100
Neno	8.5	74.7	6.3	10.0	-	0.6	100
Zomba City	48.6	41.3	6.4	1.3	-	2.5	100
Blantyre City	58.4	36.6	3.2	0.3	-	1.5	100

Table 9. 6 Proportion of households where the household head sleeps under what during hot season by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Blankets & sheets	Blankets only	Sheets only	Chitenje cloth	Nothing	Other	Total
Malawi	3.8	26.9	36.6	23.7	7.6	1.5	100
Place of residence							
Urban	7.1	18.1	63.9	6.8	2.4	1.7	100
Rural	3.0	28.9	30.2	27.7	8.8	1.4	100
Region							
North	5.6	16.1	57.1	13.9	5.1	2.2	100
Centre	3.8	34.3	34.7	22.8	3.7	0.7	100
South	3.4	21.8	34.4	26.5	11.8	2.0	100
Sex of household head							
Male	4.0	28.4	38.9	19.3	8.1	1.3	100
Female	3.2	23.1	31.0	34.5	6.2	1.9	100
Age of household head							
15-24	2.2	29.8	30.0	26.0	10.3	1.7	100
25-34	4.0	27.6	38.8	20.9	7.4	1.2	100
35-49	4.3	25.1	40.2	21.8	7.0	1.5	100
50-64	3.6	27.1	35.6	24.5	7.7	1.6	100
65+	3.2	27.3	29.3	31.3	7.2	1.6	100
Marital Status of household head							
Never married	4.0	22.7	55.8	7.1	8.2	2.2	100
Married	3.9	27.6	38.3	21.1	7.8	1.2	100
Divorced/Separated	3.2	27.4	29.1	30.7	7.5	2.1	100
Widow/Widower	3.3	23.4	30.5	34.5	6.4	1.9	100
Education Level of household head							
None	2.4	29.2	28.9	29.1	8.8	1.5	100
Primary	4.7	27.0	42.9	18.6	6.2	0.6	100
Secondary	7.1	20.0	57.5	9.3	4.6	1.6	100
Tertiary	11.9	11.9	71.5	0.6	1.8	2.3	100
District							
Chitipa	2.1	13.7	58.2	19.1	6.0	0.9	100
Karonga	3.9	5.8	69.3	12.2	8.7	-	100
Nkhata Bay	15.4	16.6	52.0	8.9	4.7	2.3	100
Rumphi	8.6	16.2	59.7	6.6	2.8	6.1	100
Mzimba	0.8	31.8	34.5	27.7	3.7	1.6	100
Likoma	14.9	17.3	59.9	2.6	3.3	2.0	100
Mzuzu City	3.6	18.5	61.4	10.2	2.6	3.7	100
Kasungu	3.3	41.8	30.6	20.6	3.2	0.5	100
Nkhotakota	8.2	43.3	24.6	17.2	6.5	0.3	100
Ntchisi	5.3	46.6	16.2	25.0	6.4	0.5	100
Dowa	3.2	30.8	32.7	30.5	2.3	0.6	100
Salima	0.3	16.2	38.8	30.7	13.3	0.8	100
Lilongwe	1.0	39.6	27.1	28.5	2.5	1.3	100
Mchinji	3.4	51.6	29.0	14.2	1.6	0.2	100
Dedza	2.2	36.0	26.7	29.9	5.3	-	100
Ntcheu	2.5	29.6	36.1	27.7	4.1	-	100
Lilongwe City	10.2	17.1	64.8	5.2	0.9	1.7	100
Mangochi	-	13.6	36.7	34.9	12.4	2.4	100
Machinga	1.0	24.7	24.2	30.5	17.0	2.7	100
Zomba	2.6	20.9	30.0	32.8	12.0	1.8	100
Chiradzulu	9.0	48.6	20.5	19.5	1.5	0.8	100
Blantyre	4.9	24.4	46.4	20.7	2.9	0.8	100
Mwanza	-	11.0	39.8	38.8	9.6	0.9	100
Thyolo	6.0	46.2	18.7	24.1	4.8	0.3	100
Mulanje	8.2	17.1	27.9	28.6	13.8	4.3	100
Phalombe	1.3	19.7	21.2	40.7	11.1	6.0	100
Chikwawa	-	2.2	23.1	35.0	38.5	1.2	100
Nsanje	0.4	2.4	18.4	30.6	45.4	2.7	100
Balaka	0.2	11.7	39.9	33.8	12.3	2.1	100
Neno	-	11.6	39.8	40.4	8.0	0.2	100
Zomba City	15.6	14.4	55.9	8.1	3.2	2.8	100
Blantyre City	3.5	19.1	70.3	5.0	0.3	1.8	100

9.6 Recent shocks to the household

This section provides information on shocks that negatively affected the welfare of households during the last twelve months preceding the survey and measures taken by households to overcome these shocks by background characteristics. Furthermore, the section has highlighted a number of shocks that severely affected the households during the reference period.

Table 9.7 indicates that a larger proportion (68 percent) of the population in Malawi was affected by unusual exorbitant prices of food in the markets followed by irregular rains and then higher cost of agricultural inputs (58 percent and 46 percent respectively). Very few households (less than one percent) were affected as a result of earthquakes.

Table 9.7 further indicates that urban areas were more affected (75 percent) by unusual high prices of food in the markets as compared to the rural areas with 67 percent.

At regional level, Northern Region was highly affected (70 percent) by unusual high prices of food in the markets. No significant differences have been observed between male-headed and female-headed households when it comes to unusual high prices for food.

As regards to irregular rains, the rural areas reported a significant higher proportion (67 percent) of population that was affected as compared to urban areas (23 percent). Similarly, for unusual high cost of agricultural inputs, the rural areas reported a higher proportion (53 percent) of the population that was affected as compared to the population in urban areas (17 percent).

Table 9.7 Proportion of households severely affected by shocks during the last 12 months by location, sex and region, Malawi 2016/17

SHOCKS	Total	Place of residence		Region			Sex	
		Urban	Rural	North	Central	Southern	Male	Female
Unusually High Prices for Food	68.4	74.9	66.9	69.5	68.8	67.9	68.2	68.9
Irregular Rains	57.8	22.7	66.5	54.6	51.5	63.8	54.9	63.3
Unusually High Costs of Agricultural Input	45.6	17.0	52.7	46.6	54.3	37.6	43.9	48.7
Drought	36.2	17.1	40.9	16.6	33.7	42.2	34.6	39.3
Unusually Low Prices for Agricultural Output	12.5	5.0	14.4	10.2	14.8	10.9	12.9	11.8
Serious Illness' or Accident of Household	9.8	10.3	9.7	12.5	8.9	10.1	9.5	10.4
Unusually High Level of Crop Pests or Diseases	6.8	2.7	7.8	4.2	5.3	8.7	6.9	6.6
Theft of Money/Valuables/Assets/Agricultural items	6.7	10.2	5.8	8.6	5.9	7.0	7.6	4.8
Break-Up of Household	5.1	6.5	4.7	4.4	5.1	5.2	3.5	7.9
Unusually High Level of Livestock Diseases	4.6	1.7	5.3	3.6	5.3	4.3	4.6	4.8
End of Regular Assistance/Aid/Remittance	4.6	2.4	5.1	3.4	4.7	4.8	3.5	6.7
Floods	4.3	3.5	4.5	11.2	2.1	4.9	4.5	3.8
Conflict/Violence	3.9	4.2	3.9	5.5	2.9	4.5	4.2	3.4
Death of Other Household Member(s)	3.4	2.1	3.8	1.3	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.2
Household (Non-Agricultural) Business Firm	3.1	5.4	2.5	7.9	3.2	2.1	3.8	1.7
Reduction in the Earnings from Household	3.0	5.1	2.5	7.7	2.9	2.1	3.5	2.0
Birth in the Household	2.3	3.3	2.0	1.9	2.5	2.2	2.7	1.5
Death of Income Earner(s)	2.3	2.0	2.4	0.9	4.4	0.8	2.1	2.6
Reduction in the Earnings of Currently S	1.7	6.5	0.6	3.5	1.7	1.5	2.2	0.8
Landslides	1.5	0.2	1.8	0.1	2.7	0.7	1.5	1.6
Loss of Employment of Previously Salaries	1.4	3.7	0.8	2.1	0.9	1.7	1.8	0.7
Earthquakes	0.2	-	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
Other (Specify)	1.5	3.7	1.0	4.4	0.7	1.6	1.7	1.1

Table 9.8 provides information on the distribution of households by number of shocks experienced during the last 12 months prior to the survey. The results show that almost all households (99.9) in Malawi were affected by at least one shock. It can also be revealed that 46 percent of the urban households were affected by exactly one shock as compared to 23percent of the rural households. At regional level no differences were observed it terms of proportion of households affected by at least one shock. The proportion of households by number of at least one experienced also remained the same if we consider all the districts in Malawi.

The table further reveals that the proportion of households that experienced at least four types of shocks was high (39 percent) in rural areas compared to urban areas (16 percent). Neno reported the highest (78 percent) proportion of households that experienced at least four types of shocks at district level followed by Mwanza at 74 percent and then Machinga at 68 percent.

Table 9. 8 Proportion of households severely affected by the following grouped shocks during the last 12 months, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Distribution of households by shocks					
	None	One	Two	Three	Four+	Total
Malawi	0.1	27.2	20.1	18.0	34.5	100
Place of residence						
Urban	0.2	46.2	24.1	13.4	16.2	100
Rural	0.1	22.8	19.2	19.1	38.8	100
Region						
North	0.2	22.2	30.0	21.5	26.1	100
Centre	-	26.7	20.7	19.3	33.3	100
South	0.2	28.7	17.7	16.1	37.3	100
Sex of household head						
Male	0.1	28.4	20.1	17.3	34.0	100
Female	0.1	24.3	20.1	19.7	35.8	100
Age of household head						
15-24	0.4	28.2	21.7	18.6	31.1	100
25-34	0.1	28.2	20.4	17.3	34.0	100
35-49	0.1	28.8	18.3	17.7	35.1	100
50-64	0.0	25.9	21.0	17.2	35.9	100
65+	0.0	22.4	21.9	20.8	34.9	100
Marital Status of household head						
Never married	0.3	46.8	23.7	11.8	17.3	100
Married	0.1	27.4	20.0	17.4	35.2	100
Divorced/Separated	0.1	25.1	19.0	19.8	36.0	100
Widow/Widower	0.0	24.2	21.4	21.1	33.3	100
Education Level of household head						
None	0.1	23.9	19.6	18.8	37.6	100
Primary	-	24.2	22.1	19.3	34.4	100
Secondary	0.1	36.1	21.1	16.0	26.8	100
Tertiary	0.7	58.9	20.9	9.1	10.4	100
District						
Chitipa	-	11.0	40.6	28.3	20.0	100
Karonga	-	16.9	33.0	29.8	20.4	100
Nkhata Bay	-	36.2	33.3	18.2	12.2	100
Rumphi	0.2	26.0	33.1	22.5	18.1	100
Mzimba	0.3	16.5	13.8	14.7	54.7	100
Likoma	-	51.0	38.6	8.9	1.4	100
Mzuzu City	0.4	28.5	24.1	11.4	35.5	100
Kasungu	-	19.2	18.3	11.9	50.7	100
Nkhotakota	-	19.3	23.2	15.8	41.7	100
Ntchisi	-	15.8	22.9	15.0	46.3	100
Dowa	-	19.3	20.7	16.8	43.2	100
Salima	-	11.8	21.1	35.9	31.1	100
Lilongwe	-	16.6	18.0	28.6	36.8	100
Mchinji	-	16.7	11.2	20.2	51.9	100
Dedza	-	33.3	24.1	18.2	24.4	100
Ntcheu	-	41.7	27.5	15.7	15.2	100
Lilongwe City	-	56.8	23.6	11.0	8.6	100
Mangochi	-	36.6	19.0	10.9	33.5	100
Machinga	-	3.5	10.3	18.5	67.7	100
Zomba	0.2	1.9	8.0	17.5	72.5	100
Chiradzulu	0.6	23.4	12.9	18.9	44.2	100
Blantyre	-	31.2	18.1	25.3	25.3	100
Mwanza	-	4.7	4.4	16.4	74.5	100
Thyolo	0.5	26.7	12.8	20.0	40.0	100
Mulanje	-	52.0	17.7	12.3	18.1	100
Phalombe	-	52.1	17.8	7.2	22.9	100
Chikwawa	-	13.1	26.2	20.3	40.4	100
Nsanje	-	11.4	25.6	19.4	43.7	100
Balaka	-	21.5	16.7	14.5	47.2	100
Neno	-	1.7	4.8	14.8	78.7	100
Zomba City	2.4	18.2	22.4	19.1	37.9	100
Blantyre City	-	53.8	27.7	14.3	4.2	100

9.7 Response against shocks

Table 9.9 provides mitigation measures that households used in order to overcome various shocks that affected their households. The results indicate that mostly (31 percent) used measure of mitigating shocks was using own savings to overcome seconded by assistance from relatives and friends at 13 percent. Using own savings registered 49 percent as a measure of overcoming shocks in urban areas and also 29 percent for the rural areas. Using own savings was reported to be common measure of mitigation shocks by Blantyre district households (70 percent).

It can also be observed that some households responded that they did nothing when they were faced with different kinds of shocks. This can be revealed by 18 percent of the responses by accounted for by doing nothing as a response.

Table 9. 9 Mitigation measures for overcoming shocks by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Own-savings	Help from relatives/friends	Help from GOVT, NGOs, etc	Changed dietary patterns	More work	Got credit	Sold assets	Spiritual efforts	Did nothing	Other
Malawi	31.4	13.1	8.9	11.8	5.0	3.0	2.9	1.1	17.9	4.9
Place of residence										
Urban	48.6	14.1	1.6	9.4	2.9	4.1	2.2	1.3	13.1	2.8
Rural	28.7	13.0	10.1	12.2	5.3	2.8	3.0	1.0	18.7	5.3
Region										
North	40.7	10.9	3.0	18.4	1.3	2.6	3.3	1.5	10.0	8.3
Centre	28.5	12.2	5.5	12.8	6.8	4.5	3.9	1.4	18.6	5.7
South	32.6	14.4	13.2	9.7	3.9	1.5	1.8	0.6	18.5	3.6
Sex of household head										
Male	33.5	10.9	8.0	11.7	5.2	3.5	3.2	1.1	18.0	5.0
Female	26.8	18.0	11.1	12.1	4.5	1.8	2.1	1.0	17.6	4.8
Age of household head										
15-24	32.9	13.9	6.0	12.2	5.7	3.1	2.0	0.8	18.1	5.3
25-34	33.2	11.1	7.1	12.5	6.1	3.5	2.1	1.2	17.5	5.8
35-49	33.1	10.3	8.4	11.6	4.8	3.5	3.5	1.1	18.2	5.4
50-64	31.3	13.3	10.2	11.7	5.1	2.2	3.3	0.9	17.8	4.1
65+	24.0	22.3	13.6	10.8	3.0	1.6	2.8	1.1	18.0	3.0
Marital Status of HH head										
Never married	36.2	17.1	6.1	8.5	5.6	2.6	1.8	1.2	15.8	5.1
Married	33.1	10.9	8.0	11.9	5.5	3.4	3.2	1.1	17.9	5.0
Divorced/Separated	28.9	15.2	9.0	12.3	4.3	2.1	2.4	0.9	19.0	5.8
Widow/Widower	24.5	21.6	14.1	11.1	3.3	1.5	1.8	1.1	17.3	3.8
Education Level of HH head										
None	28.0	13.9	10.0	12.1	5.3	2.8	2.7	1.0	19.0	5.1
Primary	33.0	11.0	8.1	12.8	5.1	3.4	3.9	1.0	16.5	5.3
Secondary	42.3	11.3	5.1	10.7	4.1	3.5	3.1	1.5	14.4	4.0
Tertiary	66.2	7.5	1.3	3.7	1.2	2.6	1.5	0.4	12.3	3.3
District										
Chitipa	39.6	12.4	4.7	20.5	0.7	0.9	3.0	1.7	5.2	11.3
Karonga	42.9	10.6	2.5	23.5	1.0	1.3	1.8	1.0	5.3	10.1
Nkhata Bay	45.1	8.7	0.9	19.9	2.7	4.2	2.2	0.2	13.4	2.9
Rumphi	46.2	9.1	4.8	16.5	2.0	2.1	2.5	0.7	11.3	4.7
Mzimba	29.4	13.4	2.7	13.9	0.1	2.4	7.8	2.8	15.8	11.6
Likoma	57.0	9.3	0.5	22.7	0.6	2.2	0.5	0.6	5.6	1.1
Mzuzu City	40.7	10.5	2.7	12.0	1.9	6.5	3.1	2.4	13.5	6.6
Kasungu	24.2	13.2	9.4	13.0	9.3	4.3	5.3	2.3	13.8	5.1
Nkhotakota	37.3	17.3	3.8	18.2	2.1	4.0	3.0	0.7	10.3	3.2
Ntchisi	35.2	14.8	2.9	13.2	0.8	3.4	4.8	0.6	19.1	5.1
Dowa	25.9	14.2	8.1	12.7	11.1	4.0	4.2	3.1	14.4	2.3
Salima	35.1	10.9	14.8	3.0	1.0	1.4	1.9	-	26.2	5.7
Lilongwe	29.8	11.2	3.0	11.6	6.2	5.6	5.0	0.7	19.0	8.0
Mchinji	22.0	10.6	2.4	22.1	13.1	7.2	2.1	1.2	12.8	6.5
Dedza	26.9	10.2	4.9	6.4	4.8	2.1	3.3	0.4	31.4	9.6
Ntcheu	24.1	9.2	6.4	10.2	2.9	0.9	4.2	0.4	33.4	8.4
Lilongwe City	35.7	11.6	0.5	15.2	4.1	7.8	2.6	3.1	17.6	1.8
Mangochi	26.7	18.3	13.1	10.6	1.0	0.2	0.4	2.3	25.4	1.9
Machinga	39.1	19.6	11.6	10.7	9.8	0.5	2.1	-	5.6	1.0
Zomba	29.0	19.2	15.7	7.4	6.0	2.3	3.4	0.2	13.7	3.2
Chiradzulu	22.2	9.7	12.6	17.9	5.0	0.9	1.9	1.0	19.2	9.6
Blantyre	44.1	10.3	12.1	6.8	2.8	1.0	1.6	1.3	18.0	1.9
Mwanza	45.6	9.2	7.2	-	0.7	0.3	0.8	0.1	33.8	2.2
Thyolo	27.6	10.8	4.3	19.4	4.8	1.0	2.1	0.7	21.5	7.8
Mulanje	24.7	8.9	8.6	2.0	0.5	0.9	1.2	0.6	49.8	2.9
Phalombe	19.6	5.7	13.5	4.9	0.3	1.3	0.9	-	51.2	2.5
Chikwawa	22.5	15.2	27.9	10.5	3.6	4.3	3.1	-	9.1	3.7
Nsanje	21.5	14.2	30.0	9.1	3.5	3.8	2.9	-	10.1	4.9
Balaka	34.5	16.8	16.9	9.2	6.8	0.4	1.6	0.4	13.1	0.3
Neno	43.7	11.4	11.9	0.9	0.0	0.8	0.5	-	27.7	3.1
Zomba City	41.5	13.2	3.5	4.7	4.4	5.2	1.8	0.4	20.1	5.2
Blantyre City	70.1	16.5	0.3	0.2	0.5	1.9	1.5	-	8.6	0.6

9.8 Social safety nets

Social safety nets are programs that are implemented by government, donors or private sector organizations to help the poorest and most vulnerable people out of extreme poverty. These social safety nets come in many forms of but not limited to food aid, cash transfers, education bursaries and scholarships and healthcare. Vulnerability is defined as people's inability to meet their basic needs due to exposure to a hazard and lack of resilience (MGDSII 2015). IHS4 collected data from households on social safety nets that households received such as food, scholarships and direct cash transfer programmes. This section discusses the proportions and kinds of support received and duration the household has been receiving the assistance.

9.8.1 Benefits from food related programmes

Food-based safety net programs support adequate consumption and contribute to improving nutrition and securing livelihoods. They differ from other safety net programs in that they are tied to the provision of food, either directly or through cash-like instruments (food stamps, coupons) that may be used to purchase food.

Table 9.10 indicates that 21 percent of the population in Malawi benefited from free maize distribution programmes. It can further be observed that 16 percent of the population benefited from free food other than maize programmes, 14 percent from school feeding programmes and less than 1 percent benefited from supplementary feeding. It can be noted that households in rural areas reported a higher proportion (25 percent) of population that benefited from free maize distribution relative to 3 percent of the urban population. Similarly on free food distribution other than maize, households in rural areas reported a higher proportion (19 percent) relative to 3 percent of the urban population that benefited from the programme.

Across gender, no major differences have been observed when it comes to benefiting from these social safety nets by male-headed and female-headed households apart from free maize distribution where female-headed households registered 25 percent with male-headed households registering 19 percent. Southern Region benefited much (30 percent) from free maize distribution followed by Central and then Northern Region (14 percent and 10 percent respectively). Similarly for free food distribution, it can be noted that Southern Region registered a higher proportion of people who benefited from this programme relative to Central and Northern Region (26 percent, 9 percent and 4 percent respectively).

At district level, Balaka reported a higher proportion (54 percent) of the population that benefited from free maize distribution while Blantyre city reported the lowest proportion (less than 1 percent) of population that benefited from free maize distribution. The highest benefiting district from school feeding programme is Nsanje with 59 percent and the least benefiting district being Ntcheu with 0.4 percent.

Table 9.10 Food programmes by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Free Maize	Free Food other than maize	School feeding	MASAF-Public works	Free distribution of Likuni phala	Food/cash for work	Supplementary feeding	Inputs for work
Malawi	20.7	15.8	13.8	7.5	2.0	1.5	0.4	0.2
Place of residence								
Urban	3.3	2.7	12.2	7.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0
Rural	24.8	18.9	14.2	7.6	2.3	1.7	0.4	0.3
Region								
North	10.0	4.4	12.0	12.5	0.5	1.3	0.3	0.1
Centre	13.9	8.6	5.8	5.2	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.1
South	29.8	25.5	22.3	8.9	3.5	2.0	0.4	0.4
Sex of household head								
Male	19.2	14.7	13.5	7.6	1.9	1.5	0.4	0.2
Female	25.1	19.2	14.7	7.3	2.2	1.5	0.4	0.3
Age of household head								
15-24	14.8	10.5	3.9	4.4	4.4	1.0	0.6	0.1
25-34	17.2	13.2	11.6	6.8	2.5	1.4	0.4	0.2
35-49	19.6	15.2	16.5	7.8	1.8	1.5	0.3	0.2
50-64	25.0	18.9	14.6	8.9	1.4	1.6	0.7	0.1
65+	29.8	22.6	13.1	7.7	0.8	1.6	0.6	0.5
Marital Status of household head								
Never married	8.8	8.1	5.3	2.5	0.8	1.5	-	0.2
Married	19.2	14.6	13.8	7.6	2.0	1.5	0.4	0.2
Divorced/Separated	23.2	19.0	13.1	7.4	2.5	1.1	0.3	0.6
Widow/Widower	31.2	22.9	15.9	8.4	1.5	1.9	0.5	0.1
Education Level of household head								
None	23.2	17.5	14.3	8.0	2.1	1.5	0.5	0.2
Primary	19.3	15.4	12.3	7.8	3.2	2.3	0.2	0.2
Secondary	12.4	9.9	13.7	6.4	1.0	1.0	0.1	0.2
Tertiary	2.4	3.5	5.9	0.3	0.7	-	0.0	-
District								
Chitipa	4.1	2.1	1.8	5.9	0.6	2.3	1.0	-
Karonga	5.1	1.9	10.9	4.5	-	2.0	-	-
Nkhata Bay	3.8	0.8	4.8	13.5	0.4	1.0	-	0.1
Rumphi	21.8	7.0	6.4	16.2	-	1.3	-	-
Mzimba	18.2	11.1	6.1	12.3	2.4	0.9	0.7	0.4
Likoma	30.9	0.1	21.8	45.3	-	-	-	-
Mzuzu City	10.5	5.7	41.4	23.9	0.1	0.4	0.5	-
Kasungu	28.8	23.4	21.3	5.6	1.5	1.4	0.3	-
Nkhotakota	10.5	6.1	3.1	5.1	0.3	-	0.4	0.4
Ntchisi	4.2	0.9	2.3	7.0	1.1	3.0	3.3	-
Dowa	21.1	11.2	9.9	8.6	1.0	2.4	-	-
Salima	40.0	26.9	3.7	8.1	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.6
Lilongwe	6.9	4.1	3.5	4.6	0.4	0.6	-	-
Mchinji	3.7	1.7	4.8	2.9	0.2	1.0	0.7	-
Dedza	11.5	6.7	2.4	4.6	1.1	1.0	0.6	-
Ntcheu	25.6	12.7	0.4	2.4	1.5	1.2	-	-
Lilongwe City	1.3	0.1	2.1	4.7	0.5	-	1.0	-
Mangochi	28.2	17.4	3.8	4.3	3.0	0.9	0.3	0.3
Machinga	34.8	33.4	3.7	10.2	3.9	2.9	0.2	0.9
Zomba	40.8	29.3	10.2	10.2	3.7	8.5	0.5	1.5
Chiradzulu	44.0	33.7	38.4	12.5	2.1	0.6	-	-
Blantyre	48.4	42.0	24.5	10.1	4.6	1.0	0.2	0.8
Mwanza	31.1	24.4	28.1	3.8	1.3	2.0	-	-
Thyolo	21.0	17.9	26.6	5.3	1.0	1.0	-	-
Mulanje	12.7	11.6	29.5	8.6	1.4	2.0	0.7	0.4
Phalombe	27.7	26.7	30.9	11.8	2.7	5.1	0.9	0.9
Chikwawa	42.1	44.3	49.1	11.4	10.6	2.4	1.8	0.2
Nsanje	48.5	48.6	58.9	12.9	12.4	0.9	0.8	0.7
Balaka	54.0	47.2	6.3	15.6	6.5	2.8	0.5	0.1
Neno	45.2	41.8	34.0	9.6	1.2	0.2	-	-
Zomba City	11.1	8.1	20.1	32.6	2.7	3.4	0.1	0.4
Blantyre City	0.9	1.5	14.9	2.1	0.1	0.3	-	-

9.8.2 Benefits from education related programme

It can be clearly observed from Table 9.11 that very small proportion of population in Malawi benefited from education related programmes. To be precise 0.5 percent of the population benefited from bursary for secondary schools with 0.2 percent benefited from tertiary loan scheme.

Relatively higher a proportion (0.5 percent) of those that benefited from scholarship for tertiary education were observed in urban areas as compared to rural areas with 0.2 percent of its population benefiting from the same programme. No difference was observed for bursaries for secondary education between urban and rural areas as both registered 0.5 percent. Amongst all the districts, Mzuzu city registered highest proportions of people that benefited from both bursaries for secondary schools and scholarships for tertiary education (1.9 percent and 2.1 percent respectively).

Table 9.11 Scholarship programmes by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Scholarship/Bursaries for Secondary Education	Scholarship for Tertiary Education
Malawi	0.5	0.2
Place of residence		
Urban	0.5	0.5
Rural	0.5	0.1
Region		
North	0.7	0.4
Centre	0.2	0.3
South	0.7	0.1
Sex of household head		
Male	0.4	0.2
Female	0.7	0.0
Age of household head		
15-24	-	0.1
25-34	0.1	0.2
35-49	0.7	0.1
50-64	0.7	0.6
65+	0.8	0.1
Marital Status of household head		
Never married	-	-
Married	0.4	0.2
Divorced/Separated	0.6	-
Widow/Widower	1.4	0.1
Education Level of household head		
None	0.4	0.1
Primary	1.2	-
Secondary	0.4	1.0
Tertiary	0.7	0.6
District		
Chitipa	0.2	-
Karonga	-	-
Nkhata Bay	0.9	-
Rumphi	0.5	-
Mzimba	1.1	0.4
Likoma	1.4	-
Mzuzu City	1.9	2.1
Kasungu	0.4	-
Nkhotakota	0.3	-
Ntchisi	0.2	-
Dowa	0.4	0.2
Salima	-	-
Lilongwe	0.3	0.4
Mchinji	-	-
Dedza	-	-
Nicheu	0.3	0.3
Lilongwe City	-	0.9
Mangochi	0.2	-
Machinga	1.8	0.4
Zomba	1.5	-
Chiradzulu	0.8	-
Blantyre	0.4	-
Mwanza	0.5	-
Thyolo	0.5	-
Mulanje	1.0	-
Phalombe	0.6	-
Chikwawa	0.4	-
Nsanje	1.2	0.8
Balaka	0.5	-
Neno	-	0.4
Zomba City	-	0.7
Blantyre City	0.7	-

9.8.3 Benefits from cash transfer programmes

Cash transfers are defined as the provision of assistance in the form of cash to the poor or to those who face a probable risk of falling into poverty in the absence of the transfer. The main objective of these programs is to increase poor and vulnerable households' real income.

Table 9.12 reveals that a small proportion of people in Malawi benefited from cash transfers from both government and other partners (2.1 percent and 2.4 percent respectively). By place of residence, a higher proportion in rural areas benefited from both government and other partners than urban areas. For instance, 2.5 percent of people from rural areas benefits from government while 0.4 percent of people from urban areas benefits from government. Similarly 2.8 percent of the population in the rural areas benefited from other partners with only 0.6 percent of their urban counterparts benefiting from other partners.

A highest proportion (2.6 percent) of people from Northern Region benefited from cash transfer from government followed by Southern and then Central Region (2.4 percent and 1.8 percent respectively). Similarly, a highest proportion (3.3 percent) of people from Central Region benefited from cash transfer from other partners followed by Southern and then Northern Region (1.7 percent and 1.3 percent respectively). Four percent of the households headed by women benefited from cash transfer from government as compared to 1.5 percent registered by households headed by their male counterparts. No major differences were observed between male-headed households and female-headed households that benefited from cash transfer from other partners (refer Table 12.12). It is also interesting to note that there was a higher proportion (6.5) of the widowed from direct cash transfers from the government as compared to those that were divorced/separated, married and never married.

At district level, it can be observed that Nkhata Bay registered a higher proportion (7.3 percent) of household that benefited from direct cash transfers from the government with Kasungu leading on the proportion (11.3 percent) of households that benefited from direct cash transfers from other partners.

Table 9.12 Cash and inputs programmes by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Direct Cash Transfers from Govt	Direct Cash Transfers from others	Other
Malawi	2.1	2.4	3.0
Place of residence			
Urban	0.4	0.6	2.6
Rural	2.5	2.8	3.1
Region			
North	2.6	1.3	16.1
Centre	1.8	3.3	0.5
South	2.4	1.7	2.8
Sex of household head			
Male	1.5	2.4	3.2
Female	4.0	2.3	2.7
Age of household head			
15-24	0.8	1.3	2.3
25-34	1.0	1.6	3.2
35-49	1.8	2.4	2.9
50-64	2.2	3.4	3.4
65+	6.9	3.1	3.1
Marital Status of household head			
Never married	1.4	-	1.6
Married	1.4	2.4	3.2
Divorced/Separated	3.3	1.6	2.3
Widow/Widower	6.5	3.0	2.5
Education Level of household head			
None	2.6	2.6	3.0
Primary	1.1	1.7	3.4
Secondary	0.4	2.0	3.4
Tertiary	-	0.1	2.1
District			
Chitipa	3.3	2.7	41.1
Karonga	1.1	1.9	38.8
Nkhata Bay	7.3	0.6	0.5
Rumphi	0.6	0.4	7.8
Mzimba	2.5	1.9	1.0
Likoma	6.2	0.3	-
Mzuzu City	0.2	0.2	0.5
Kasungu	1.9	11.3	-
Nkhotakota	-	-	0.2
Ntchisi	1.3	0.4	0.6
Dowa	2.7	9.0	1.8
Salima	1.4	-	-
Lilongwe	1.5	1.2	0.3
Mchinji	4.3	5.7	0.9
Dedza	4.1	0.7	0.7
Ntcheu	0.5	0.5	-
Lilongwe City	-	0.7	0.3
Mangochi	3.0	3.8	-
Machinga	4.7	0.2	4.6
Zomba	5.5	0.6	14.3
Chiradzulu	0.1	0.4	0.5
Blantyre	1.5	1.1	0.7
Mwanza	2.9	1.3	0.3
Thyolo	0.3	0.5	0.3
Mulanje	3.5	0.7	9.6
Phalombe	3.5	0.7	2.9
Chikwawa	3.4	7.8	0.4
Nsanje	3.8	4.3	0.6
Balaka	2.7	0.5	0.3
Neno	1.3	0.3	0.6
Zomba City	2.3	0.8	23.3
Blantyre City	-	-	0.4

9.9 Nutritional and under five clinic programmes

9.9.1 Nutritional programmes

Nutritional programmes were introduced in the country to among other things address problems of morbidity and mortality among malnourished children aged less than 5 years, by improving their nutritional status through an appropriate and sustainable nutritional rehabilitation programme. Rapid catch-up growth is achieved by following a standardized nutritious diet protocol and provision of essential micronutrients.

The 2016 Integrated Household Survey collected information on participation of children aged 6-59 months in these nutritional programs to determine the extent of utilization of these facilities in the country.

The results (Table 9.13 below) indicate a 10 percent participation rate in the nutrition program. This is a significant decrease from about 14 percent in 2010. Analysis by place of residence shows that children who were beneficiaries of the program in rural areas declined by about 27 percent, from 15 percent in 2010 to 11 percent in 2016. Urban areas registered an increase in participation rate over this period of about 43 percent (5 percent to 8 percent).

Participation in nutrition program decreases with increases in mother's education; it is highest among children of uneducated mothers (11 percent) and lowest among children of mothers with a secondary or higher education (9 percent). Compared with 2010 findings, participation rates among children with uneducated mothers has declined by about 26 percent from 14.2 percent to about 10.5 percent, whereas the proportion of children with mothers of secondary or higher education has increased by almost 1 percent, from 9.3 percent to 9.4 percent.

Looking at the three regions of the country, the Northern Region has the highest proportion of children aged 6-59 months who participate in nutritional programs (20 percent) and it is also the region that has experienced a substantial increase from about 4 percent in 2010. Levels of participation in Central and Southern Regions have decreased from 15 percent to 10 percent and about 15 percent to 9 percent respectively.

9.9.2 Under five clinic participation

Under five clinics are an important part of comprehensive health care programs and were established to monitor growth and development of children up to 5 years of age and to identify factors that may hinder their growth potential.

The results from the survey show that about 78 percent of children aged 6-59 months attended under-five clinics (Table 9.13). Compared to 2010, this figure has increased by 5 percent from 74.3 percent.

The proportion is relatively higher in rural areas (81 percent) than in urban areas (66 percent). Urban participation rates have decreased by about 9 percent while in rural areas the rates have increased by 8 percent since 2010.

The Table further shows that as child's age advances, attendance gradually decreases. There is high proportion of children participating in the program at the age of 6-8 (94 percent) than at the age group of 48-59 months (52 percent).

Regional variations show that Northern Region reported the highest proportion of children who attended (90 percent) compared to Central (79 percent and Southern Region (74 percent). Between 2010 and 2016, Under-five participation has increased by about 17 percent in the Northern Region. Central and Southern Regions have experienced increases of about 5 percent and 2 percent respectively.

Chitipa registered high proportion of participation in under five clinics at about 94 percent followed by Karonga at 93 percent. The least district is Blantyre city at 47 percent, a decrease of about 31 percent (69 percent in 2010) followed by Lilongwe city at 63 percent, a drop of about 11 percent (71 percent in 2010).

Table 9.13 Proportion of children aged 6-59 months who participated in nutrition and under five clinic programmes by background characteristics, Malawi 2010 and 2016

Background characteristics	Nutrition programme		Under-five clinic	
	2010	2016	2010	2016
Malawi	13.5	10.2	74.3	77.9
Place of residence				
Urban	5.4	7.7	72.1	65.8
Rural	14.8	10.8	74.6	80.6
Area				
Urban North	4.4	13.5	76.3	86.4
Urban Centre	3.4	8.2	72.7	67.8
Urban South	8.9	5.4	70.4	57.1
Rural North	4.4	19.5	76.7	90.1
Rural Centre	16.9	9.6	76.1	79.2
Rural South	15.8	8.9	72.7	74.2
Region				
Northern Region	4.4	19.5	76.7	90.1
Central Region	14.7	9.6	75.5	79.2
Southern Region	15	8.9	72.4	74.2
Sex of child				
Male	14.3	10.2	75.6	77.8
Female	12.8	10.2	72.9	78
Child's age in months				
06-08	14.1	11	91.9	94.2
09-11	14.9	14.2	93.6	92.1
12-17	14.4	10.9	86.8	93.6
18-23	15	13.5	88	89
24-35	14	9.6	80.6	81.2
36-47	13.1	9.8	70.6	71.2
48-59	11.9	7	51.1	51.7

Table 9.13 continued

Background characteristics	2010	2016	2010	2016
Mother's education				
None	14.2	10.5	73.8	79.7
Primary	10.4	11	79.4	77.6
Secondary+	9.3	9.4	74	75.9
District				
Chitipa	1	5.7	87.8	93.7
Karonga	2.7	7	89	93.2
Nkhata Bay	4.9	38.5	65.4	88.7
Rumphi	5.9	39.9	69.8	89.7
Mzimba	5.8	15.3	74.1	91.8
Likoma		38.8		88
Mzuzu City	3.5	11.1	70	82.7
Kasungu	4.5	9.2	81.6	89.9
Nkhotakota	1	17.4	66.8	80.3
Ntchisi	3.2	27	75.9	89.4
Dowa	3.4	2	75.4	85.3
Salima	3.9	13.8	77	78.1
Lilongwe	51.1	8.3	77.6	68.5
Mchinji	21.2	6.8	74.6	76.5
Dedza	5.3	11.9	79.2	91.1
Ntcheu	3.7	7.5	72	91.4
Lilongwe City	3.9	8.4	70.7	62.8
Mangochi	47.5	8.6	64.7	75.2
Machinga	47.1	8.3	69	75.5
Zomba	2.9	9.3	69.4	82.8
Chiradzulu	4.2	7.5	64.8	67.6
Blantyre	4.3	11.2	76.9	66.5
Mwanza	1.5	4	93	92.9
Thyolo	7.6	4.6	67.9	74.7
Mulanje	2.5	2.8	80.3	79
Phalombe	2.1	4.6	73	73.7
Chikwawa	3.1	22.9	81.1	85.3
Nsanje	2.4	19.9	82.1	78.2
Balaka	3.7	10.1	78.3	84.6
Neno	3.1	8.3	85.3	92.9
Zomba City	0.7	6.9	73.3	74.5
Blantyre City	5.3	5.8	68.9	47.1

9.10 Duration of benefits from social safety nets

Table 9.14, shows that the longest time that people benefited from school feeding programme in Malawi was on average eight months, followed by supplementary feeding for malnourished children for five months. It can also be observed that households benefited from free distribution of likuni phala, maize and food other than maize for four months during the 12 months preceding the survey.

The table further reveals that households that benefited from food/cash for work and inputs for work did so for two months only. In almost all the programmes Southern Region registered the highest average duration of receiving assistance compared to Central and Northern Regions except for school feeding which registered an average of eight months in all the regions.

At district level, Lilongwe reported the highest average duration of six months of benefiting from free distribution of likuni phala followed by Mulanje (five months). Mangochi registered the highest duration (twelve months) of supplementary feeding programme followed by Phalombe which reported nine months. Households in Mulanje and Neno benefited from food/cash programmes for six months in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Table 9.14 Duration of benefiting from a programme by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Free Maize	Free food other than maize	Food/Cash for work	Inputs for work	School feeding	Free distribution of Likuni phala	Supplementary feeding
Malawi	3.9	4.0	2.1	2.0	7.7	4.3	5.3
Place of residence							
Urban	2.3	2.5	1.6	1.0	8.5	7.2	1.0
Rural	3.9	4.1	2.1	2.0	7.5	4.2	6.8
Region							
North	2.1	2.1	1.2	-	7.8	2.9	-
Centre	3.4	3.0	1.4	1.0	7.6	3.7	2.7
South	4.2	4.4	2.6	2.2	7.7	4.5	6.6
Sex of household head							
Male	3.9	4.0	2.1	1.0	7.5	4.0	4.5
Female	3.9	4.1	2.0	2.7	7.9	4.9	7.1
Age of household head							
15-24	3.3	3.1	1.0	.	7.1	3.5	3.0
25-34	4.0	4.3	1.3	1.0	7.2	4.1	6.2
35-49	3.9	3.8	2.1	1.0	7.9	4.0	5.7
50-64	3.8	4.2	2.4	4.0	7.7	6.9	1.0
65+	4.0	4.2	2.9	2.6	7.9	5.0	12.0
Marital Status of household head							
Never married	4.6	4.1	8.0	-	8.1	-	-
Married	3.8	3.8	2.0	1.0	7.5	3.9	4.5
Divorced/Separated	3.8	4.2	2.2	3.8	7.9	6.6	.
Widow/Widower	4.0	4.3	1.7	1.0	8.2	2.9	7.1
Education Level of household head							
None	4.0	4.1	2.2	2.1	7.7	4.3	5.3
Primary	3.4	3.8	1.2	-	6.8	4.0	-
Secondary	3.5	3.4	2.3	1.0	8.0	4.0	-
Tertiary	2.8	3.8	-	-	6.9	10.0	-
District							
Chitipa	2.7	2.5	1.0	-	.	2.3	-
Karonga	1.3	1.6	1.0	-	8.3	-	-
Nkhata Bay	1.3	1.0	1.0	-	4.0	-	-
Rumphi	2.9	2.7	1.0	-	6.8	-	-
Mzimba	2.6	2.6	2.1	-	9.0	2.4	-
Likoma	1.0	1.0	-	-	9.0	.	-
Mzuzu City	1.1	1.0	-	-	7.9	6.0	-
Kasungu	2.6	2.5	1.0	-	8.0	2.0	-
Nkhotakota	3.5	2.4	-	-	9.0	.	-
Ntchisi	2.3	1.0	-	-	3.0	.	8.2
Dowa	3.0	1.9	1.6	-	8.1	.	-
Salima	4.2	3.7	-	1.0	5.0	2.0	-
Lilongwe	2.4	2.3	2.4	-	-	-	-
Mchinji	2.6	1.0	1.0	-	3.8	-	-
Dedza	3.6	4.3	1.0	-	-	-	-
Ntcheu	4.6	5.0	1.0	-	4.0	3.0	-
Lilongwe City	1.0	-	-	-	7.9	10.0	1.0
Mangochi	2.8	2.5	-	4.0	7.7	.	12.0
Machinga	4.7	4.9	1.0	1.0	7.9	3.2	-
Zomba	4.0	4.2	4.1	3.6	8.2	3.5	-
Chiradzulu	4.0	4.5	2.3	.	8.1	5.5	-
Blantyre	4.0	4.3	2.8	1.0	8.1	5.0	-
Mwanza	3.5	3.5	3.8	-	7.0	2.8	-
Thyolo	4.1	4.2	-	-	7.0	.	-
Mulanje	2.6	3.9	6.0	-	7.6	9.2	5.0

Table 9.14 continued

Background characteristics	Free Maize	Free food other than maize	Food/Cash for work	Inputs for work	School feeding	Free distribution of Likuni phala	Supplementary feeding
Phalombe	3.9	4.3	1.0	1.0	7.5	3.0	11.0
Chikwawa	5.5	5.4	2.5	-	7.0	3.4	2.0
Nsanje	5.2	5.6	-	1.0	7.2	4.4	5.0
Balaka	5.0	4.6	2.0	-	8.1	3.6	3.0
Neno	4.3	4.1	5.8	-	8.4	6.0	-
Zomba City	4.1	5.1	2.8	1.0	8.6	3.0	-
Blantyre City	-	3.0	1.0	-	9.0	-	-

Chapter 10

FOOD SECURITY

10.0 Introduction

This chapter provides comprehensive information and a descriptive analysis about food security at the household level. The IHS4 collected information on a variety of specific conditions, experiences, and behaviours characteristic of a wide range of severity of household food insecurity including its intermediate and underlying causes. Availability of food is of paramount importance in Malawi and it is widely accepted that lack of adequate food, whether chronic or transitory, is one the principal indicators of poverty.

Food security exists when a person has permanent physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet his dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The survey questions followed a progressive scale of severity ranging from high to very low food security. Placement on this scale was determined by the extent of food deprivation perceived, experienced and described by the respondents. The implemented scale classifies households into four categories, each representing a different degree of food severity: high food security, marginal food security, low food security and very low food security.

10.1 Definitions

High food security—Households that did not experience any concern about accessing enough food and did not alter the quality, variety, and quantity or eating patterns.

Marginal food security—Households have concerns about adequacy of the food supply but the quantity, the quality, the variety and the eating patterns were not disrupted.

Low food security— Households might have been concerned about not having access to enough food, they reduced the quality and the variety of the food consumed but quantity of food intake and normal eating patterns were not disrupted.

Very low food security— Households experience multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake. They report reduction in food quality, variety, quantity and frequency of food consumed. Consumption by adults could have been restricted in order for

small children to eat and could also depend on food assistance from relatives or friends.

10.2 Food security assessment

Results for the IHS4 reveal that a large proportion of the population in Malawi experienced high food insecurity during the week prior to their interview. Table 10.1 indicates that about 61 percent of the population experienced very low food security in the country. This figure is higher than in the IHS3 2010/11 which was 32 percent. The proportion is higher in rural areas as compared to urban areas (66 percent and 42 percent, respectively) and food insecurity was more prevalent in female-headed households compared to male-headed households (69 percent and 58 percent, respectively). This situation is higher in households headed by widowed persons than other marital statuses where 69 percent of the population experienced very low food security.

In terms of region, Southern Region experienced high levels of very low food security (63 percent) followed by the Central and Northern Regions (61 percent and 58 percent respectively). At district level, substantially higher levels of low food security were experienced in Zomba, Machinga and Nsanje (89 percent, 87 percent and 84 percent respectively), implying that at least four out of five people experienced very low food security. Blantyre city reported the highest proportion (58 percent) of the population with high food security as compared to all other districts.

Table 10.1 Population by food security status in the week prior to the survey by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Food Security Status				
	High	Marginal	Low	Very low	Total
Malawi	24.0	2.6	12.0	61.4	100
Place of residence					
Urban	42.0	4.2	11.4	42.4	100
Rural	19.7	2.2	12.2	65.9	100
Region					
North	23.9	3.4	15.1	57.6	100
Centre	23.3	2.9	13.0	60.8	100
South	24.6	2.1	10.5	62.8	100
Sex of household head					
Male	26.4	2.7	12.6	58.2	100
Female	17.9	2.2	10.7	69.3	100
Age of household head					
15-24	21.4	2.6	14.2	61.8	100
25-34	25.6	2.8	12.2	59.4	100
35-49	25.4	2.6	12.3	59.7	100
50-64	24.3	2.5	11.0	62.2	100
65+	18.6	2.0	10.9	68.5	100
Marital Status of household head					
Never married	42.3	4.5	15.4	37.7	100
Married	25.6	2.7	12.5	59.2	100
Divorced/Separated	17.5	1.9	11.3	69.3	100
Widow/Widower	17.3	2.1	9.5	71.2	100
Education Level of household head					
None	18.0	2.2	11.8	68.1	100
Primary	24.1	2.9	12.1	60.9	100
Secondary	37.6	4.0	14.2	44.1	100
Tertiary	75.8	2.2	7.3	14.7	100
District					
Chitipa	24.4	2.4	20.8	52.4	100
Karonga	26.1	1.7	13.5	58.7	100
Nkhata Bay	16.8	2.3	14.7	66.1	100
Rumphi	22.7	2.0	15.4	59.9	100
Mzimba	20.0	3.6	11.0	65.4	100
Likoma	20.8	5.5	10.9	62.7	100
Mzuzu City	31.8	8.8	16.0	43.4	100
Kasungu	16.9	3.3	14.4	65.4	100
Nkhotakota	19.0	2.7	16.2	62.1	100
Ntchisi	21.3	1.3	11.6	65.8	100
Dowa	12.3	4.8	17.3	65.6	100
Salima	19.3	1.7	17.5	61.5	100
Lilongwe	26.0	1.7	9.8	62.5	100
Mchinji	32.2	1.3	4.3	62.2	100
Dedza	18.5	1.1	13.8	66.6	100
Ntcheu	19.8	3.6	14.5	62.1	100
Lilongwe City	36.7	5.5	14.2	43.6	100
Mangochi	15.9	1.5	18.2	64.5	100
Machinga	8.9	0.4	4.3	86.5	100

Table 10.1 continued

Background characteristics	High	Marginal	Low	Very low	Total
Zomba	6.0	2.0	3.5	88.4	100
Chiradzulu	28.2	2.4	10.9	58.4	100
Blantyre	39.7	3.0	8.2	49.1	100
Mwanza	39.6	3.5	6.4	50.6	100
Thyolo	26.8	1.9	13.3	58.0	100
Mulanje	24.1	2.6	12.3	61.1	100
Phalombe	12.4	2.4	11.9	73.3	100
Chikwawa	12.5	2.3	9.2	76.1	100
Nsanje	9.0	1.6	5.3	84.1	100
Balaka	15.0	1.1	17.0	66.9	100
Neno	37.8	2.6	6.1	53.5	100
Zomba City	29.5	2.2	9.3	58.9	100
Blantyre City	57.9	3.4	5.9	32.8	100

10.3 Food security and livelihood strategies

Households vulnerable to food insecurity employ a variety of coping and adaptive mechanisms intended to mitigate or scale down food hardships. This section highlights some of the coping strategies employed by households when faced with scarcity of food.

10.3.1 Rely on less expensive or less preferred food

Table 10.2 indicates that about 64 percent of the population relied on less expensive or less preferred foods as a coping mechanism. These people adjusted their food intake by reducing the quality, the variety, or the desirability of their diet. Higher proportions of the population that relied on less expensive or less preferred food as a mitigation measure are observed in rural areas (69 percent) as compared to urban areas (47 percent). The table further reveals that more female-headed households (71 percent) relied on less expensive or less preferred foods compared to male-headed households (62 percent). Southern Region reported the highest proportion of population (66 percent) that relied on less expensive or less preferred food followed by the Northern Region at 65 percent and the Central Region at 63 percent.

10.3.2 Limit portion size at meal times

Table 10.2 also reveals that 48 percent of the population reduced consumption at mealtimes by cutting the portion size of meals. The proportion is significantly high in rural areas (52 percent) than in urban areas (34 percent). At regional level, Southern Region reported that 53 percent of households were limiting portion size at meals times in order to mitigate food shortages as compared to Northern Region and Central Region (47 percent and 44 percent,

respectively). The proportion of people reducing meal as a mitigation measure decreases as you move from the lowest (53 percent) to highest level of education (8 percent).

10.3.3 Reduce number of meals

Consumption of three meals or more per day is customary in Malawi, however in the face of food shortages some households reduce the number of meals taken per day to mitigate or scale down food hardships. Table 10.2 indicates that 46 percent of the population in Malawi experienced food rationing in the form of reduction in the number of meals consumed per day. A higher proportion of the population that reduced the number of meals as a mitigation measure can be observed in rural areas as compared to urban areas (51 percent and 29 percent, respectively). At district level, Nsanje reported the highest proportion of population who reduced the number of meals as a mitigation measure (75 percent) which implies that three in every four persons experienced deprivation by reducing the number of meals in a day. Blantyre City reported the lowest proportion among all the districts (20 percent) to have experienced this condition. In terms of education, it can be observed that those with tertiary education were less likely to reduce the number of meals taken per day to mitigate the food shortage (7 percent) as compared to those with lesser or no education at all.

10.3.4 Restrict consumption by adults

When resources are inadequate to provide food for all household members, children are usually shielded from the disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake that characterize food insecurity. Table 10.2 shows that the overall prevalence of incidences of reduced adult consumption to provide for children in Malawi is about 24 percent. The findings indicate that there were more people who reported to have experienced this condition in rural areas, (about 25 percent) than in urban areas (16 percent). It can also be observed from the table that more female-headed households (26 percent) restricted consumption by their adult members as compared to male-headed households at 23 percent.

At regional level, Central Region reported the least proportion of adults who consumed less than they felt they should (20 percent). The Southern Region was the highest at 29 percent with both the Northern Region and Central Regions at 20 percent.

Among the districts, Ntcheu reported the least proportion of the population employing this strategy (12 percent) with Nsanje having the highest proportion (63 percent) of adults who deliberately limited their own food intake to ensure that children get enough to eat.

10.3.5 Borrowed food or relied on help from others

In times of food hardship households may seek assistance or increase reliance on borrowed food from relatives or friends to offset the shortfall. The results in Table 10.2 show that about 30 percent of the population borrowed food or depended on assistance from relatives or friends. The proportion was higher in rural areas at 33 percent relative to urban areas at 18 percent. Food aid dependency syndrome was more apparent in female-headed households (37 percent) compared to male-headed households (27 percent).

It is further observed that Southern Region reported the highest proportion (32 percent) of borrowing or reliance on others at regional level followed by Central and then Northern Region (29 percent and 20 percent respectively). At district level, Machinga reported the highest proportion (53 percent) while Mzuzu city reported the lowest proportion at 14 percent.

Table 10. 2 Population that was food insecure in the 7 days preceding to the survey by coping mechanisms by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Coping mechanisms				
	Relied on less preferred or less expensive foods	Limit portions	Reduced number of meals taken in a day	Restrict consumption by adults in order for small children to eat	Borrow food, or rely on help from a friend or relative
Malawi	64.4	48.1	46.3	23.9	29.6
Place of residence					
Urban	46.3	33.8	28.5	17.0	17.6
Rural	68.6	51.5	50.5	25.5	32.5
Region					
North	65.4	46.5	42.7	20.2	19.7
Centre	62.6	44.2	44.6	20.1	29.4
South	65.9	52.5	48.8	28.5	32.0
Sex of household head					
Male	62.0	45.7	43.6	23.2	27.0
Female	71.3	55.5	54.4	26.0	37.3
Age of household head					
15-24	66.2	47.1	47.6	18.9	36.0
25-34	64.0	47.0	45.1	23.8	32.3
35-49	63.5	47.6	45.4	26.0	28.1
50-64	63.6	49.1	47.2	23.8	26.2
65+	69.0	52.1	50.4	19.0	31.4
Marital Status of household head					
Never married	48.0	30.8	29.7	23.9	29.6
Married	62.6	46.0	43.9	23.8	27.6
Divorced/Separated	74.1	59.8	58.9	28.7	38.0
Widow/Widower	69.3	54.4	53.4	21.5	36.8

Table 10.2 continued

Background characteristics	Relied on less preferred or less expensive foods	Limit portions	Reduced number of meals taken in a day	Restrict consumption by adults in order for small children to eat	Borrow food, or rely on help from a friend or relative
Education Level of household head					
None	69.4	52.9	51.9	26.9	32.8
Primary	60.2	46.1	41.6	20.6	28.1
Secondary	49.3	32.6	27.2	13.9	19.0
Tertiary	18.9	8.2	7.3	3.6	4.8
District					
Chitipa	69.3	40.8	41.3	14.0	17.7
Karonga	65.2	48.5	47.8	17.9	17.1
Nkhata Bay	70.0	51.1	46.2	25.6	24.2
Rumphi	68.3	47.3	42.8	22.5	22.4
Mzimba	65.1	56.0	46.6	24.9	23.3
Likoma	63.3	46.5	39.6	23.7	31.3
Mzuzu City	54.6	34.0	29.1	16.1	13.6
Kasungu	66.9	43.5	43.0	18.7	34.9
Nkhotakota	67.8	47.3	46.2	15.3	28.1
Ntchisi	61.2	49.9	51.5	22.7	29.4
Dowa	69.9	43.7	39.2	15.0	33.9
Salima	62.4	45.7	44.9	25.2	26.1
Lilongwe	57.0	50.5	44.8	22.1	29.4
Mchinji	64.0	56.8	55.4	28.4	36.0
Dedza	72.9	41.1	56.4	25.1	35.7
Ntcheu	72.2	34.4	52.3	11.6	27.1
Lilongwe City	47.6	33.9	28.9	17.3	16.9
Mangochi	78.0	57.7	46.2	19.1	29.0
Machinga	85.1	74.2	73.5	49.8	52.9
Zomba	80.3	75.7	74.1	50.0	44.7
Chiradzulu	58.7	43.7	40.2	15.1	28.0
Blantyre	46.2	37.5	35.3	17.4	26.6
Mwanza	46.5	40.1	34.4	18.6	28.0
Thyolo	63.8	46.3	50.3	25.2	31.5
Mulanje	63.7	50.4	44.2	21.0	30.4
Phalombe	66.4	55.1	53.4	24.9	38.4
Chikwawa	81.8	65.9	65.0	57.1	33.4
Nsanje	84.6	68.5	75.2	63.1	37.8
Balaka	78.8	58.8	52.0	29.5	36.1
Neno	48.8	41.6	36.6	20.0	30.7
Zomba City	57.8	47.6	42.0	28.0	23.6
Blantyre City	32.3	25.9	20.2	12.3	16.4

10.4 Household food consumption profile

The survey collected information on the number of meals consumed in a typical day by adult household members and children under- five years of age. In a country where consumption of three or more meals in a day is customary, household food rationing in the face of food shortages include reduction in the number of meals consumed by both adults and children. However, households usually give priority to children than adults and it is mostly in

households with higher degree of food insecurity that even children under 5 years of age are affected by the food reduction strategies.

10.4.1 Frequency of meals consumed by adults

The results in Table 10.3 shows that about 44 percent of adults in households in Malawi consumed three or more meals daily, this percent is lower than what was reported for IHS3 (2010/2011) (52 percent). The situation was worse in rural areas where more households (about 64 percent) took less than three meals a day compared to their urban counterparts (21 percent). The proportion of households that took less than three meals a day was higher in the Southern Region at 60 percent, followed by the Central Region at 55 percent and then the Northern Region at 39 percent. A remarkable difference is also observed when we consider sex of the head of households by number of meals taken by adults. The table also reveals that 46 percent of adults in of households that were male-headed consumed three or more meals daily as compared to 35 percent of adults in households that were female-headed.

It can also be noted that Phalombe registered the highest proportion (87 percent) of households whose members consumed less than the customary three meals per day followed by Zomba (81 percent). On the other hand, Likoma district registered the highest proportion (86 percent) of households whose members consumed three or more main meals daily.

10.4.2 Frequency of meals consumed by children under 5 years of age

Considering frequency of meals consumed by children under 5 years of age, it can be observed that 52 percent of the households provided three or more meals to their under five children daily. The highest proportion is observed in urban areas where 84 percent of the households, children were provided with three or more meals per day compared to rural areas (44 percent). It can also be observed that 56 percent of male-headed households were able to provide three or more meals to their children relative to female-headed households (41 percent). The proportion of households that provided three or more meals to their children gradually increased with increasing education level of the head of household from those with no education to tertiary education. Households that reported that their heads had no education at all registered 42 percent while those with tertiary education registered 96 percent.

The proportion of households that provided three or more meals to children under the age of 5 years was highest in the Northern Region seconded by Central Region and then Southern Region at 68, 53 and 47 percent respectively. Table 10.3 further reveals that Phalombe district registered the highest proportion (85 percent) of households who were unable to provide three or more meals a day to their under five children followed by Mulanje and Dedza at 66 and 65 percent respectively.

Table 10.3 Percentage distribution of households by number of meals taken per day by adults and children under 5 years of age by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Number of meals (adults)					Number of meals (children 6-59 months)				
	1	2	3	4 or more	Total	1	2	3	4 or more	Total
Malawi	3.5	52.2	43.0	1.3	100	2.8	45.7	49.1	2.4	100
Place of residence										
Urban	1.4	19.9	74.0	4.7	100	0.5	16.0	75.4	8.1	100
Rural	4.0	59.8	35.7	0.4	100	3.3	52.6	43.1	1.1	100
Region										
North	1.2	37.3	59.8	1.7	100	0.7	30.9	64.7	3.7	100
Centre	2.7	51.8	44.2	1.3	100	2.2	44.9	50.5	2.4	100
South	4.7	55.6	38.5	1.2	100	3.7	49.4	44.8	2.1	100
Sex of household head										
Male	3.0	49.4	46.2	1.4	100	2.1	41.9	53.2	2.8	100
Female	4.9	59.2	35.0	1.0	100	4.3	54.7	39.6	1.4	100
Age of household head										
15-24	3.2	54.6	41.4	0.8	100	3.9	49.4	45.9	0.8	100
25-34	2.9	47.6	47.8	1.7	100	2.1	41.4	53.5	3.0	100
35-49	3.7	49.1	45.9	1.4	100	2.5	42.4	52.2	2.9	100
50-64	3.1	56.1	39.6	1.3	100	2.4	51.2	44.3	2.1	100
65+	5.4	62.6	31.7	0.2	100	5.1	55.6	38.7	0.7	100
Marital Status of household head										
Never married	1.7	38.0	57.2	3.1	100	1.4	36.0	58.3	4.4	100
Married	2.8	49.7	46.1	1.4	100	2.0	42.2	53.0	2.8	100
Divorced/Separated	7.0	59.9	32.4	0.7	100	5.8	56.8	36.8	0.6	100
Widow/Widower	4.3	61.2	33.9	0.6	100	4.0	56.5	38.2	1.3	100
Education Level of household head										
None	4.3	61.9	33.5	0.3	100	3.4	54.7	41.0	0.9	100
Primary	2.4	44.7	51.7	1.3	100	1.8	36.4	59.3	2.6	100
Secondary	1.8	26.1	69.6	2.6	100	1.1	20.8	72.5	5.6	100
Tertiary	0.8	5.8	80.0	13.5	100	-	4.0	77.4	18.6	100
District										
Chitipa	0.9	44.9	54.0	0.2	100	0.8	42.9	55.3	0.9	100
Karonga	0.3	38.5	58.5	2.8	100	-	33.5	61.7	4.8	100
Nkhata Bay	0.5	40.9	58.7	-	100	1.2	35.4	62.4	1.1	100
Rumphi	1.6	33.0	63.7	1.7	100	0.7	27.3	68.7	3.3	100
Mzimba	3.4	51.8	43.8	0.9	100	1.3	37.4	58.4	2.9	100
Likoma	1.8	12.7	85.1	0.4	100	1.6	11.8	85.5	1.1	100
Mzuzu City	1.0	15.6	79.2	4.2	100	0.3	8.9	82.3	8.5	100
Kasungu	2.7	54.4	42.5	0.4	100	2.2	47.7	48.4	1.7	100
Nkhotakota	1.1	37.2	60.3	1.4	100	0.9	33.5	63.3	2.3	100

Table 10.3 continued

Background characteristics	1	2	3	4 or more	Total	1	2	3	4 or more	Total
Ntchisi	3.6	49.2	46.1	1.1	100	2.6	43.8	52.2	1.4	100
Dowa	1.4	43.3	53.2	2.1	100	1.1	37.3	57.4	4.2	100
Salima	3.7	60.8	35.4	0.2	100	2.7	53.2	44.1	-	100
Lilongwe	3.4	62.3	33.7	0.6	100	2.2	54.7	41.7	1.5	100
Mchinji	7.5	60.9	31.2	0.4	100	4.6	57.2	36.4	1.9	100
Dedza	3.9	66.6	29.0	0.5	100	3.7	61.3	35.0	-	100
Ntcheu	-	64.7	35.3	-	100	2.3	50.3	47.1	0.4	100
Lilongwe City	0.8	19.5	75.3	4.4	100	0.3	13.4	78.7	7.6	100
Mangochi	1.8	50.4	47.4	0.4	100	1.2	33.6	63.9	1.3	100
Machinga	3.4	75.1	21.3	0.2	100	1.5	71.3	26.9	0.3	100
Zomba	8.4	72.1	19.5	-	100	5.9	65.6	28.4	0.2	100
Chiradzulu	2.3	68.1	29.3	0.4	100	1.2	59.7	37.8	1.3	100
Blantyre	3.5	48.5	46.5	1.6	100	3.5	45.7	48.2	2.6	100
Mwanza	6.6	55.3	36.5	1.6	100	3.6	49.6	44.8	2.0	100
Thyolo	5.5	63.5	31.0	-	100	5.8	59.1	35.1	-	100
Mulanje	6.3	62.8	30.6	0.3	100	5.4	60.6	33.6	0.4	100
Phalombe	16.8	69.8	13.4	-	100	17.3	67.9	14.8	-	100
Chikwawa	6.7	66.7	25.7	0.9	100	6.3	56.7	36.2	0.8	100
Nsanje	8.5	62.9	28.4	0.2	100	4.9	58.6	36.0	0.5	100
Balaka	2.3	63.1	34.2	0.4	100	0.6	54.6	43.9	0.8	100
Neno	5.3	58.5	35.9	0.3	100	2.7	46.6	48.9	1.8	100
Zomba City	2.3	23.0	67.5	7.2	100	0.1	17.9	67.3	14.6	100
Blantyre City	2.8	13.6	78.5	5.2	100	0.9	12.3	78.0	8.8	100

10.5 Households reporting that they did not have enough food

Table 10.4 provides information on the proportion of the population that did not have enough food throughout the past twelve months preceding the survey and the underlying causes of households not to have enough food. The results in Table 10.4 reveal that 73 percent of the population in Malawi did not have enough food in the 12 months prior to the survey. A higher proportion (79 percent) was reported for the households in rural areas as compared to those in urban areas (48 percent). The proportion was higher in female-headed households (79 percent) as compared to male-headed households (72 percent). In terms of the level of education, it can be noted that those households whose head had no education were highly affected by the situation as compared to those who had primary, secondary and tertiary education (80, 68, 52 and 19 percent respectively).

Southern Region reported the highest proportion of the population (75 percent) that suffered from food shortage followed by Central Region (74 percent) and Northern Region (63 percent). The results at district level reveal that Nsanje reported the highest proportion (97 percent) of the population that was affected by food deficiency followed by Machinga and

Chikwawa (94 and 90 percent respectively). Low proportion of the population affected by food deficiency was observed in Blantyre City (29 percent).

10.6 Underlying causes for households not having enough food

Causes of food deficiencies as reported by IHS4 range from small land holding size, food prices, drought, floods and crop pests, to lack of farm inputs. The majority of the population (35 percent) that experienced food shortages during the year reported that the underlying causes were droughts, erratic rains, floods and water logging. High market prices came second and affected about 28 percent of the total population. Twenty-two percent of the total population did not have enough food because of lack of farm inputs which later affected their food production, while land shortage (small land holding size) affected a small proportion of the vulnerable population (9 percent). It can also be observed that crop pest damage also affected insignificant proportion of the population (1 percent).

A remarkable difference is observed in the underlying causes of food shortages for place of residence where 37 percent of the rural population reported that drought, poor rains, floods and water logging as compared to only 19 percent of the urban population. Fifty-two percent of the urban population reported high market price as the main cause of their households having food deficits. On the other hand, the proportion that indicated high food prices as the underlying cause of food deficit was significantly low in rural areas at 25 percent. Likoma reported highest proportion of people who that reported not to have enough food due to high market prices (64 percent). Lack of farm inputs caused food shortage to insignificant proportions of the population in Blantyre city and Chikwawa districts (1 percent and 1.5 percent respectively).

About 38 percent in rural areas indicated external factors such as drought, erratic rains, floods or crop pests as causes of food insufficiency as compared to 19 percent in urban areas. Southern Region reported the highest proportion of population with no enough food caused by natural causes (45 percent) followed by both the Central Region and Northern Region at 27 percent. Lack of farm inputs affected food production to a higher proportion of people in the Central Region (30 percent) compared to the other regions (25 percent in Northern Region and 15 percent in the Southern Region).

At district level, the table reveals that 39 percent of the population in Nkhotakota reported lack of farm inputs as an underlying cause for the households not to have enough food followed by Mchinji (39 percent) and then Mzimba (37 percent).

Table 10.4 Proportion of the population that did not have enough food in the 12 months preceding the survey and causes of the situation by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Population that did not have enough food	Causes of food shortage						Total
		Drought, poor rains, floods, water logging	Food in the market was very expensive	Lack of farm inputs	Small land size	Crop pest damage	Other	
Malawi	73.4	35.1	27.6	22.4	8.6	0.9	5.5	100
Place of residence								
Urban	47.5	18.5	52	9.5	5.6	0.3	14.2	100
Rural	79.4	36.8	25.1	23.7	8.9	1	4.6	100
Region								
North	63.3	26.2	32.7	25.3	9	0.8	6	100
Centre	73.6	26.9	23.5	30.2	11.4	0.5	7.5	100
South	75.2	44.1	30.5	14.7	5.9	1.3	3.6	100
Sex of household head								
Male	71.5	34.7	28.1	22.8	7.9	0.8	5.6	100
Female	79.1	35.7	26.4	21.5	9.9	1.1	5.3	100
Age of household head								
15-24	74.6	33.5	30.4	18.4	8.9	0.8	8	100
25-34	74	31.7	29.4	22.4	9.5	0.8	6.1	100
35-49	72.5	35.1	28.2	22	8.4	0.9	5.5	100
50-64	71.7	38	24.7	24.4	8	1.1	3.9	100
65+	77.6	38.3	24.5	23.4	7.9	1.1	4.8	100
Marital Status of household head								
Never married	50.7	28.7	42.6	13	4.3	1.9	9.5	100
Married	72.3	35.2	27.6	22.9	8.2	0.7	5.4	100
Divorced/Separated	80.3	34.1	26.6	22.2	10.3	1.2	5.6	100
Widow/Widower	76.9	36.1	26.4	21.3	9.1	1.4	5.8	100
Education Level of household head								
None	80	35.4	26.5	23.1	9.1	1	4.9	100
Primary	67.9	36.5	27.4	22	6.9	0.5	6.6	100
Secondary	52.4	31.5	35.2	18	6.3	0.7	8.4	100
Tertiary	19.2	35.7	35.4	12.8	2.4	-	13.6	100
District								
Chitipa	65	22.8	34	35.1	3.2	-	4.9	100
Karonga	74.2	26.7	37.7	20.2	9.8	0.7	4.8	100
Nkhata Bay	61.2	32.4	27.6	20.2	13.8	1.6	4.4	100
Rumphi	62	33.6	23.9	29.3	8.5	0.5	4.2	100
Mzimba	68.8	28	19.6	36.8	11.9	0.7	3	100
Likoma	55.1	11.9	63.9	3.3	16.2	-	4.7	100
Mzuzu City	45.2	7.9	54	5.6	6.7	1.7	24.1	100
Kasungu	83.2	30.1	20.1	34.5	8.2	0.2	7	100
Nkhotakota	65.5	26.2	25.8	27.5	13.3	1	6.2	100
Ntchisi	66.6	28.9	17.1	39.2	9.7	0.6	4.6	100
Dowa	80.4	27.9	24.2	35.6	8.7	0.4	3.1	100
Salima	76.2	29.3	28	18.1	13.8	0.4	10.4	100
Lilongwe	73	24.2	18.1	30.2	16.8	0.5	10.1	100

Table 10.4 continued

Background characteristics	Population that did not have enough food	Drought, poor rains, floods, water logging	Food in the market was very expensive	Lack of farm inputs	Small land size	Crop pest damage	Other	Total
Mchinji	83	19.9	9.9	38.9	20.7	0.3	10.4	100
Dedza	82.2	33.3	20.9	31.8	8.7	1.1	4.2	100
Ntcheu	76	40.7	23.3	29.6	2.5	1.1	2.7	100
Lilongwe City	53.8	9.2	63.1	6.5	5.7	-	15.5	100
Mangochi	85.5	52	38.5	6.4	1	0.4	1.7	100
Machinga	93.9	48	27.4	19	3.8	0.7	1.2	100
Zomba	89.3	47	21.8	22.1	5.3	0.5	3.2	100
Chiradzulu	72.3	39.3	16.2	31.2	10.2	0.3	2.9	100
Blantyre	61.4	41	26.5	16.1	9.6	1.1	5.8	100
Mwanza	72.1	54.8	19.1	20.2	2.8	-	3.1	100
Thyolo	73.1	39	20.8	26.2	8	1.2	4.9	100
Mulanje	76.6	36.6	26.5	13	18.4	1	4.6	100
Phalombe	88.1	41.7	21.7	20.4	14.5	0.3	1.4	100
Chikwawa	89.6	45.1	44.2	1.5	1.8	5.3	2.2	100
Nsanje	96.5	45.8	42.3	2.2	2.2	5.4	2.1	100
Balaka	87.9	52.1	34.3	9.6	2.1	0.7	1.2	100
Neno	78.7	57.5	16.4	20.6	1.7	0.3	3.5	100
Zomba City	54.1	28.9	36.6	14	5.7	0.3	14.5	100
Blantyre City	29.2	10	60	1	2	-	27	100

10.7 Food shortage during the 12 months preceding the survey

The IHS4 collected data on the number of months that households experienced food insufficiency twelve months prior to the survey to determine the depth of food insufficiency. The results reveal that 22 percent of the population was unable to access enough food during three months of the year, while 19 percent reported that the situation was for two months, 13 percent reported prolonged food scarcity for period of over six months.

Considering the place of residence, Table 10.5 below shows that among the rural households that reported to having insufficient food over the year preceding the survey, 22 percent indicated that the situation was for three months of the year, 18 percent reported that it was for two while 14 percent reported seven or more months of food shortage. In urban areas, the results show that 27 percent of urban dwellers reported that they did not have enough food for two months over the year preceding the survey, 20 percent for only one month, 20 percent for three months and 7 percent for seven or more months. The results also reveal that only 49 percent of the rural population had access to adequate food for at least 9 months in the year as compared to 67 percent of their urban counterparts.

The proportion of the population that had insufficient food was reported high in female-headed households where about 15 percent faced prolonged episodes of scarcity for seven or more months compared to the male-headed households (12 percent). At regional level,

Sothorn region registered the highest proportion (19 percent) of the population that faced prolonged episodes of scarcity for seven or more months followed by Central and Northern Region (9 percent and 5 percent respectively). District level observations indicate prolonged episodes of scarcity for seven or more months of food deficit in the Shire Valley districts of Nsanje and Chikwawa affecting 47 percent and 46 percent respectively.

Table 10.5 Distribution of population by months they experienced food shortage, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Number of months							Total	Average number of months
	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven and more		
Malawi	10.1	18.9	21.8	15.9	11.9	8.3	13.0	100	4
Place of residence									
Urban	19.6	26.8	20.3	11.6	8.4	5.9	7.4	100	3
Rural	8.7	17.8	22.0	16.5	12.4	8.7	13.8	100	4
Region									
North	18.2	24.6	21.1	14.2	11.6	5.3	5.0	100	3
Centre	14.2	20.7	23.3	14.9	10.9	7.6	8.5	100	3
South	4.7	16.2	20.5	17.2	13.0	9.6	18.8	100	4
Sex of household head									
Male	11.1	19.9	22.3	15.2	11.6	8.0	12.0	100	4
Female	7.7	16.7	20.6	17.7	12.7	9.2	15.4	100	4
Age of household head									
15-24	12.2	17.7	20.7	18.7	10.9	6.3	13.6	100	4
25-34	9.8	21.4	21.5	15.1	12.1	7.3	12.8	100	4
35-49	11.3	19.0	21.5	15.8	12.2	8.5	11.8	100	4
50-64	8.8	17.4	23.4	15.0	12.1	10.0	13.3	100	4
65+	7.7	16.8	21.9	17.0	11.6	9.3	15.7	100	4
Marital Status of household head									
Never married	16.3	22.2	13.0	24.7	8.9	3.9	11.0	100	3
Married	11.0	19.6	22.3	14.9	11.8	8.3	12.0	100	4
Divorced/Separated	8.4	16.2	21.4	18.0	11.8	8.8	15.5	100	4
Widow/Widower	6.1	17.5	20.8	17.9	13.0	8.8	15.8	100	4
Education Level of household head									
None	8.7	17.4	21.9	16.3	12.7	8.9	14.2	100	4
Primary	13.2	21.3	22.3	16.5	8.3	7.6	10.8	100	3
Secondary	15.6	25.9	20.4	14.0	10.3	6.0	7.7	100	3
Tertiary	20.4	27.5	26.7	7.6	7.1	-	10.8	100	3
District									
Chitipa	8.3	16.6	20.2	22.9	16.6	9.2	6.2	100	4
Karonga	9.0	19.1	18.9	16.9	20.4	8.4	7.4	100	4
Nkhata Bay	34.6	30.5	18.5	9.1	4.6	1.1	1.5	100	2
Rumphi	22.0	24.3	23.6	14.2	7.6	4.0	4.4	100	3
Mzimba	18.6	29.3	26.9	12.6	6.1	3.0	3.4	100	3
Likoma	35.4	25.6	20.0	8.8	4.1	4.3	1.7	100	2

Table 10.5 continued

Background characteristics	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven and more	Total	Average number of months
Mzuzu City	27.2	35.7	19.4	4.5	5.5	2.3	5.4	100	3
Kasungu	9.0	20.9	26.2	14.4	12.0	6.9	10.6	100	4
Nkhotakota	9.2	25.7	22.1	14.6	8.0	11.0	9.4	100	4
Ntchisi	13.3	26.9	23.3	16.2	9.8	6.5	4.1	100	3
Dowa	10.9	22.0	24.3	11.9	9.1	11.9	10.0	100	4
Salima	3.9	20.6	19.4	16.4	12.3	11.7	15.6	100	4
Lilongwe	8.2	19.3	24.3	17.1	13.7	6.5	10.9	100	4
Mchinji	6.5	20.4	29.4	19.9	11.6	7.1	5.1	100	4
Dedza	25.4	11.7	20.3	16.6	9.6	9.2	7.2	100	3
Ntcheu	27.9	13.5	19.5	13.1	15.8	4.1	6.2	100	3
Lilongwe City	27.5	33.2	20.7	8.5	3.7	3.5	2.8	100	3
Mangochi	2.8	19.6	23.4	24.6	16.5	11.2	1.9	100	4
Machinga	4.6	14.4	17.9	12.0	10.7	10.8	29.7	100	5
Zomba	8.4	16.5	14.9	11.8	9.8	6.8	31.9	100	4
Chiradzulu	2.2	17.4	27.1	19.4	10.9	11.1	12.0	100	4
Blantyre	7.6	13.9	19.0	22.4	13.0	10.6	13.6	100	4
Mwanza	7.0	20.1	24.3	14.3	11.1	4.5	18.7	100	4
Thyolo	4.7	17.7	23.4	17.3	8.7	8.3	19.9	100	4
Mulanje	3.9	17.5	24.0	17.1	15.0	11.5	10.9	100	4
Phalombe	1.7	13.5	24.8	16.5	22.7	11.5	9.3	100	4
Chikwawa	1.9	8.4	11.9	11.2	10.6	8.7	47.3	100	5
Nsanje	2.9	6.7	11.6	12.0	9.9	10.2	46.6	100	5
Balaka	8.3	16.3	20.0	20.9	14.9	6.3	13.2	100	4
Neno	10.2	16.4	14.3	13.1	11.8	7.6	26.5	100	4
Zomba City	13.2	22.5	17.9	8.8	10.5	7.1	19.9	100	4
Blantyre City	10.6	24.6	20.6	16.2	13.0	6.9	8.0	100	4

Chapter 11

DEATHS IN THE HOUSEHOLDS

11.0 Introduction

The survey collected data on household members that died in the two years preceding the survey along with reported causes of these deaths. The information collected focused on the proportion of household members that died, the major causes of deaths that were reported, those who diagnosed the illness of the deceased and proportion of households that lost assets due to the death of the household member.

11.1 Proportion of deaths

Table 11.1 shows that 5 percent of the interviewed population reported death of at least one household member in the 2 years preceding the survey. In terms of residence, there is a higher proportion of people who were reported to have died in rural areas compared to urban areas. About 6 percent of households in rural areas reported at least one death compared to 5 percent in urban areas.

At regional level, Central Region reported a slightly higher proportion (6 percent) of households that experienced at least one death of a household member followed by the Southern Region and Northern Region at 5 percent each. At district level, there is substantial variation across the districts with Karonga reporting the lowest proportion of households with members that died at 1 percent while the highest was reported in Nkhata Bay at 10 percent. In the Northern Region, Nkhata Bay had the highest percentage of those who reported the death of at least one household member at 10 percent while Karonga was the lowest at 1 percent. In the Central Region, Mchinji reported the highest percentage at 9 percent while the lowest was reported in Lilongwe at 4 percent. In the Southern Region, the highest percentage was reported in Nsanje at 11 percent while the lowest was reported in Phalombe at 2 percent.

11.1.1 Major causes of deaths that were reported

The survey also looked at the major illnesses that people suffered from prior to their death. From Table 11.1, malaria was the illness that was reported most frequently as the cause of death at 22 percent followed by cancer and HIV and AIDS at 8 percent and Pneumonia at 5

percent. By place of residence, 24 percent of households in rural areas reported to have lost a household member due to malaria compared to 7 percent in urban areas.

At regional level, Central Region reported the highest percentage of household members who died from malaria at 30 percent, followed by the Southern Region at about 16 percent, and then the Northern Region at 11 percent.

Analysing data by sex, the results show that a higher proportion of male household members died due to malaria at 25 percent compared female household members at 17 percent.

In Northern Region, Rumphi had high proportion of household members who died from malaria at 43 percent followed by Mzimba at 13 percent while Karonga had the lowest cases at zero percent. In the Central Region, Kasungu reported the highest percentage at 42 percent while the lowest was reported in Lilongwe City at zero percent. In the Southern Region however, the highest percentage was reported in Balaka at 38 percent while the lowest was reported in Blantyre Rural and Thyolo at zero percent.

Table 11.1 Proportion of households who experienced deaths over the past two years and reported causes of deaths by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Proportion of households that experienced deaths	Top most reported diseases that caused deaths among household members										
		Malaria	Pneumonia	Tuberculosis	HIV and AIDS	Heart Disease	High blood pressure	Stroke	Cancer	Does not know	Other	Total
Malawi	5.4	21.5	4.8	3.6	7.8	2.7	4.4	3.9	7.9	12.9	30.5	100.0
Residence												
Urban	4.6	7.1	7.3	4.0	12.6	8.7	6.0	5.0	17.0	8.9	23.5	100.0
Rural	5.5	24.4	4.3	3.6	6.9	1.5	4.1	3.7	6.1	13.7	31.9	100.0
Region												
North	4.7	11.0	9.0	3.1	4.3	12.9	4.7	9.6	5.0	3.9	36.3	100.0
Central	5.5	30.1	2.8	2.1	7.3	1.1	4.8	3.1	7.4	12.4	28.9	100.0
Southern	5.4	15.7	5.7	5.1	9.0	1.9	4.0	3.4	9.0	15.3	30.7	100.0
Sex of the household head												
Male	4.0	25.2	5.7	3.0	4.4	1.1	3.9	3.8	9.3	12.9	30.6	100.0
Female	8.6	16.9	3.5	4.4	12.1	4.7	5.1	3.9	6.1	12.9	30.3	100.0
Education of the household head												
None	5.9	22.5	4.3	3.2	7.7	2.2	3.7	3.4	8.0	12.6	32.3	100.0
Primary	3.9	16.8	9.3	5.8	9.4	0.8	5.0	13.4	4.5	8.2	26.7	100.0
Secondary	4.3	18.3	5.4	5.5	8.7	5.4	8.4	3.0	8.6	17.1	19.5	100.0
Tertiary	1.0	2.0	10.5	0.0	0.0	19.2	14.4	0.0	9.0	15.8	29.2	100.0
District												
Chitipa	2.9	6.5	0.0	0.0	16.9	0.0	0.0	28.3	0.0	17.1	31.1	100.0
Karonga	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
Nkhata Bay	10.2	7.5	11.0	5.5	4.6	11.5	6.1	6.4	6.3	6.7	34.5	100.0
Rumphi	4.5	43.1	11.8	1.2	0.0	17.5	0.0	0.0	12.2	0.0	14.2	100.0
Mzimba	6.0	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.8	9.6	32.3	0.0	0.0	39.8	100.0
Likoma	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	43.8	21.1	7.8	0.0	0.0	27.3	100.0
Mzuzu City	4.9	3.0	16.2	3.6	7.4	27.2	2.8	0.0	5.2	0.0	34.7	100.0
Kasungu	8.0	41.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	0.8	12.5	40.0	100.0
Nkhotakota	4.0	11.7	6.8	0.0	23.2	0.0	0.0	7.3	0.0	30.8	20.2	100.0
Ntchisi	6.0	34.0	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	1.7	50.1	100.0
Dowa	6.1	38.2	1.5	2.2	0.0	0.0	9.3	5.8	2.5	4.3	36.2	100.0
Salima	5.3	25.7	9.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.0	41.8	100.0
Lilongwe	4.1	35.5	0.0	0.0	25.5	0.0	6.3	0.0	2.9	19.1	10.7	100.0
Mchinji	8.7	30.6	0.0	9.0	18.4	0.0	2.5	3.0	5.8	14.9	15.7	100.0
Dedza	5.3	33.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.5	0.0	19.3	13.9	22.6	100.0
Ntcheu	5.2	28.1	6.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	8.9	10.7	0.0	43.9	100.0
Lilongwe City	4.1	0.0	8.9	3.7	0.9	9.9	12.9	0.0	28.6	10.0	25.1	100.0
Mangochi	4.4	21.3	9.2	8.6	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.5	38.2	13.4	100.0
Machinga	6.3	21.7	9.1	0.0	8.5	3.4	8.6	0.0	8.6	11.7	28.4	100.0
Zomba	9.4	19.2	0.0	1.5	24.0	2.1	17.2	0.0	0.0	4.9	30.9	100.0
Chiradzulu	4.5	14.3	8.6	3.6	0.0	11.1	0.0	15.8	0.0	10.8	35.9	100.0
Blantyre	6.5	0.0	6.1	14.8	7.6	6.5	0.0	5.4	2.7	12.6	44.3	100.0
Mwanza	6.1	26.7	0.0	0.0	10.9	5.7	0.0	8.9	1.8	6.8	39.1	100.0
Thyolo	3.3	0.0	0.0	17.1	19.2	0.0	10.5	3.4	7.0	0.0	42.9	100.0
Mulanje	7.1	2.3	0.0	5.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	30.4	31.8	29.2	100.0
Phalombe	2.4	11.1	0.0	10.2	28.9	0.0	4.7	3.5	20.5	21.1	0.0	100.0
Chikwawa	7.6	26.0	13.1	5.8	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	10.5	37.5	100.0
Nsanje	10.7	19.0	6.1	0.0	3.3	0.0	2.4	5.4	0.0	21.2	42.5	100.0
Balaka	3.4	38.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.2	7.9	42.9	100.0
Neno	5.3	17.7	0.0	22.6	0.0	0.0	7.1	3.6	2.4	12.7	33.8	100.0
Zomba City	8.1	10.7	0.0	5.7	10.6	3.3	6.0	0.0	17.1	7.5	39.0	100.0
Blantyre City	3.9	13.3	11.2	0.0	31.1	0.0	6.0	9.4	17.3	0.0	11.7	100.0

11.1.2 Diagnosis of Illness of the deceased

This section aims at understanding the usage of health personnel in the diagnosis of illnesses that caused the household members to die. This was important as it will help to understand the type of treatment received by those that are ill as this has an impact on the health of sick people.

Table 11.2 shows that 78 percent of household members that died had their illnesses medically diagnosed followed by those who were diagnosed non medically and those who diagnosed themselves (own perception) at 11 percent each. There is difference between urban and rural areas of those were diagnosed medically. The urban areas stand at about 87 percent compared to 76 percent in the rural areas.

At the regional level, Northern Region reported the highest percentage of those whose illness was medically diagnosed at 84 percent followed by Southern Region at 80 percent while Central Region reported the lowest at about 74 percent.

Table 11.2 Proportion of those who diagnosed illness of household members that died by background characteristics, Malawi 2016/17

Background characteristics	Medical diagnosis	Non Medical diagnosis	Own perception	Total
Malawi	77.8	11.0	11.2	100.0
Residence				
Urban	87.3	8.5	4.1	100.0
Rural	76.0	11.5	12.5	100.0
Region				
North	83.8	5.8	10.4	100.0
Central	74.4	13.4	12.2	100.0
Southern	79.6	9.9	10.4	100.0
Sex of household head				100.0
Male	75.3	11.9	12.8	100.0
Female	80.7	10.0	9.3	100.0
Education of household head				100.0
None	77.5	11.2	11.3	100.0
Primary	76	12.2	11.8	100.0
Secondary	79.3	9.9	0.0	100.0
Tertiary	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
District				100.0
Chitipa	70.7	29.3	0.0	100.0
Karonga	63.4	0.0	36.6	100.0
Nkhata Bay	79.6	8.9	11.4	100.0
Rumphi	95.6	2.2	2.3	100.0
Mzimba	83.0	0.0	17	100.0
Likoma	84.4	15.6	0.0	100.0
Mzuzu City	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Kasungu	77.8	4.1	18.1	100.0
Nkhotakota	40.5	35.7	23.8	100.0
Ntchisi	79.1	6.7	14.3	100.0
Dowa	78.6	3.5	18	100.0
Salima	75.5	12.4	12.1	100.0
Lilongwe	73.1	21.1	5.8	100.0
Mchinji	74.5	19.5	6.0	100.0
Dedza	70.4	8.5	21.1	100.0
Ntcheu	67.8	24	8.1	100.0
Lilongwe City	82.9	11.3	5.8	100.0
Mangochi	80.5	5.8	13.8	100.0
Machinga	81.7	13.1	5.2	100.0
Zomba	91.4	8.6	0.0	100.0
Chiradzulu	76.8	9.5	13.7	100.0
Blantyre	79.1	8.6	12.2	100.0
Mwanza	64.1	0.0	35.9	100.0
Thyolo	64.8	26.8	8.3	100.0
Mulanje	77.3	4.1	18.6	100.0
Phalombe	91.7	0.0	8.3	100.0
Chikwawa	77.6	16.8	5.7	100.0
Nsanje	73.6	8.0	18.4	100.0
Balaka	88.3	2.9	8.8	100.0
Neno	74.7	16.9	8.4	100.0
Zomba City	81.3	15.9	2.8	100.0
Blantyre City	84.6	8.2	7.2	100.0

Across districts, the highest percentage was reported in Mzuzu City at 100 percent of illnesses diagnosed medically while the lowest was reported in Nkhotakota at 41 percent.

11.2 Property loss due to death of household member

The survey also looked at the proportion of households that lost property due to the death of a household member. Table 11.2 shows that 8 percent of interviewed households during the IHS4 lost property due to the death of any household member.

At regional level, Central Region reported the highest percentage of households that lost property after the death of a household member at 11 percent, followed by the Southern Region at about 6 percent and Northern Region at 5 percent.

Analysing data by sex of the household head, the results show that there was a higher proportion of property loss at 11 percent in male-headed households compared to 5 percent in female-headed households.

Among districts in the Northern Region, Karonga had the highest percentage of household members who lost property due to the death of household members at 26 percent followed by Rumphi at 11 percent. Nkhata Bay and Likoma did not have any households that reported property loss due to the death of a household member. In the Central Region, Mchinji reported the highest percentage of households that experienced property loss at 39 percent while Kasungu and Salima did not experience any property loss. In the Southern Region, the highest percentage was reported in Chiradzulu at 14 percent while the lowest was reported in Mangochi, Blantyre Rural and Phalombe at zero percent.

Table 11.3 Proportion of households who lost assets due to death of any household members by background characteristics, Malawi 2016

Background characteristics	Proportion of households who lost property due to death
Malawi	8.2
Residence	
Urban	12.4
Rural	7.4
Region	
North	5.4
Central	11.4
Southern	5.7
Sex of household head	
Male	9.0
Female	7.3
Education of household head	
None	8.4
Primary	6.8
Secondary	12.3
Tertiary	2.9

Table 11.3 continued

Background characteristics	Proportion of households who lost property due to death
District	
Chitipa	2.4
Karonga	26.2
Nkhata Bay	0.0
Rumphi	10.9
Mzimba	8.4
Likoma	0.0
Mzuzu City	8.1
Kasungu	0.0
Nkhotakota	2.2
Ntchisi	18.8
Dowa	9.1
Salima	0.0
Lilongwe	13.9
Mchinji	39.1
Dedza	4.0
Ntcheu	6.3
Lilongwe City	7.7
Mangochi	0.0
Machinga	4.6
Zomba	8.1
Chiradzulu	14.1
Blantyre	0.0
Mwanza	8.6
Thyolo	2.4
Mulanje	2.5
Phalombe	0.0
Chikwawa	5.8
Nsanje	2.2
Balaka	13.9
Neno	6.4
Zomba City	8.3
Blantyre City	11.3

Appendix

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